TRAVELS

IN THE YEAR 1792

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, AND HUNGARY,

TO

VIENNA:

CONCLUDING WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THAT CITY.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS, TO A LADY IN ENGLAND.

BY

WILLIAM HUNTER, Esq.

Ignotis errare locis, ignota videre
Flumina gaudebat; ſtudio minuente laborem.

OVID.

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M.DCC.XCVI.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHY theſe Travels were not publiſhed ſooner, or why they are publiſhed now, is of ſo little conſequence to thoſe who may do me the honour of reading them, that I ſhall neither waſte their time nor my own in entering into an explanation of my reaſons.—All that it is incumbent on me to declare is, that they were written on the ſpot whence the reſpective Letters are dated, and, with very trifling variations, in the form which they now wear.—As far as regards the information which they contain, I have, in every reſpect, adhered as ſtrictly to the truth as my own obſervation and the intelligence of others have enabled me.—I am at the ſame time ſenſible, how much a traveller through foreign

countries lies at the mercy of the natives, and how liable he is to be impoſed on by their exaggerations.—After having ſaid thus much, if it ſhould appear, that I have fallen into any erroneous ſtatement of facts, I muſt hope that the candour of my readers will attribute it to thoſe miſrepreſentations which ſometimes unavoidably miſlead the moſt accurate inquirers, and not to any wilful deſign to deceive.

London,
March 24, 1796.

ITINE-

ITINERARY.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
				Feb.	
From LONDON to					
Dover - -		73*	T.	14	
Boulogne - -			W.	15	Arrived at Boulogne, after a passage of 12 hours. We remained there till 2 o'clock the next day.
Samers - -	2	9	T.	16	
Cormont - -	1	5			
Montreuil - -	1½	7¾			
Nampont - -	1½	8¼			
Bernay - -	1	5½			
Nouvion - -	1	5			
ABBEVILLE -	1½	8¼			Slept.
Ailly - - -	1½	7½			
Flixcourt - -	1¼	6¼			
Pecquigny - -	1	6¼			
AMIENS - -	1½	7¾	F.	17	Dined.
Hébécourt - -	1	6			
Flers - - -	1	5½			
Breteuil - - -	1½	7¾			Slept.
Wavigny - -	1½	6½			
St. Just - - -	1	4½			
Clermont - -	2	9½			
Lingueville -	1¼	6			

* With regard to the distances in English miles, I have always, when I have had an opportunity, availed myself of Duten's Itinerary, which I have found very useful, and on the whole extremely correct.—It is a book which every traveller ought to be in possession of.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
				Feb.	
to *Chantilly* - -	1 1/2	8	S.	18	Dined.
Luzarches -	1 1/4	6 1/4			
Ecouen - -	1 1/4	7			
St. Denis -	1 1/4	5			
PARIS - -	1	6			Arrived at Paris, where we remained till the following Friday.
Charenton -	1		F.	24	
Villeneuve -	1 1/4				
Lieurſaint -	1 1/2	37			
MELUN -	1 1/2				
Fontainebleau	2				
Nemours - -	2	10			
La Croiſière	1 1/2	7 1/2			
Fontenay - -	1	5			
Puits-la-laude	1	5 1/2			
Montargis -	1	5			Slept.
La Commodité	1	6 1/2			
Nogent - -	1	5			
La Buſſière -	1 1/2	7 1/2			
Briare - -	1 1/2	9	S.	25	Dined.
Neuvy - -	2	12			
Coſne - - -	1 3/4	9 1/2			Slept.
Pouilly - -	1 3/4	10			
LA CHARITE'	1 1/2	9			
Pougues - -	1 1/2	8			
NEVERS - -	1 1/2	8 1/2			Dined and ſlept.
Magny	1 1/2	7 1/2			
St. Pierre-le-Moutier -	1 1/2	7			
St. Imbert -	1	5 1/2			
Villeneuve -	1	5			
MOULINS -	1 1/2	8	M.	27	Dined.
Beſſay - -	1 3/4	8			
Varenne - -	1 3/4	10			
St. Gerand-le-Puy - -	1 1/2	7 1/2			
La Paliſſe -	1	5 1/2			Slept.
Droiturier -	1	5			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Curſory Remarks.
				Feb.	
to St. Martin d'Eſtreaux -	1	5			
La Pacaudiere	1	5½			
St. Germain l'Eſpinaſſe	1½	6½			
ROANNE -	1½	7½	T.	28	Dined.
L'Hôpital -	1	5			
St. Symphorien	1	5½			
La Fontaine	1	7			
Tarare - -	1½	7			Slept.
Les Arnas -	1½	7			
La Tour de Salvagny - -	2	10			
Lyon - -	1½	7	W.	29	Arrived at Lyons, where we remained till Friday.
St. Fond -	1	5½			
St. Symphorien	1	6		March	
VIENNE - -	1½	9	F.	2	Breakfaſted.
Auberive -	2	10			
Le Péage -	1	4½			
St. Rambert	1½	7			
St. Vallier	1½	7½			
Tain - -	1½	8			
Valence - -	2½	11½			Slept.
La Paillaſſe -	1½	7			
Loriol - -	1½	7			
Laine - -	1½	7½			
Montélimart -	1½	7			
Donzère -	2	11			
Pierrelatte -	1	5			
La Palu -	1	5			
Mornas - -	1½	8			
Orange - -	1½	7	S.	3	Slept.
Courthezon	1	6			
AVIGNON -	2½	13	G.	4	Dined.
Rémoulins -	3½				Slept.
St. Gervaſy -	1	30			
NISMES - -	1		M.	5	Dined.

Names of Places.	Posts.		Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
					March	
to Curbuſſot -	1 1/2					
Taraſcon -	1 1/2					We were obliged to ſleep at Beaucaire on the other ſide of the Rhone, arriving there too late to croſs the river in the ferry-boat.
			40			
St. Remy -	2					
Orgon - -	2			T.	6	Dined.
Le Pont Royal	2		11			
St. Canât -	2		11			
Aix - - -	2		12			Slept.
Le Pin - -	2		10			
Marseille	2		10	W.	7	Arrived at Marſeilles, where I remained till the following Tueſday *.
Poſts.	139 1/2		801 1/4	Miles.		
Milo - -				F.	30	Arrived at Milo, where I remained till the 3d of April.
					April	
Smyrna - -				F.	6	Arrived at Smyrna, where I remained till the 25th.

* My principal view in noticing the places at which we dined and ſlept, is to ſhew, in ſome meaſure, the rate at which we travelled, and to point out our method of dividing our journey.

Names of Places.	Hours	Days.	Mths.	Curſory Remarks.
			April	
From SMYRNA to Yakai * -	3	W.	25	Slept.
MAGNESIA	6			
Palamout -	4	T.	26	Do.
Kalembi -				
Alkapana (wood) - -	13	F.	27	Do.
Geulgouck -	4	S.	28	Breakfaſted.
Mendahura	8			Slept.
In a wood -	7	G.	29	Dined.
Chiltiki - -	6			Slept.
Maarlich -	6	M.	30	Dined.
Chatalaga -	7		May	Slept.
Chechirgi -	5	T.	1	Breakfaſted.
BRUSA - -	1			Arrived at Bruſa about mid-day, where we remained till the next morning.
In a field -	10	W.	2	Dined.
Yalova	10			Embarked at Yalova about ſix o'clock in the morning, and after a ſail of eleven hours, arrived at Conſtantinople, where we remained till the 10th.
CONSTANTINOPLE - -		T.	3	
Hours.	90			We travelled from Smyrna to Yalova, on an average, at the rate of about 3½ miles an hour. The number of hours we were on horſeback amounts to ninety. The diſtance muſt therefore be about 315 Engliſh miles †.

* All travellers, I obſerve, ſpell the names of the Turkiſh villages in a different manner.—I have adopted that which, to my ear, moſt reſembles the Turkiſh pronunciation.

† Not having a Pedometer with me, I am obliged to truſt to calculation.

Names of Places.	Days.	Mths.	Curſory Remarks.
		May	
From CONSTANTINOPLE to Bujukedere - -	T.	10	Slept.
Cavarna - -	S.	13	Arrived at Cavarna, where we remained till the 15th.
Delenibai - -	T.	15	Slept.
Valalai - -	W.	16	Do.
Cajarmari - -	T.	17	Do.
Raſſovat - -	F.	18	Arrived at Raſſovat, where we remained till the 20th.
			From Cavarna to Raſſovat, we travelled about ſeven hours a day, and about three miles an hour.—The intermediate diſtance will therefore be about 84 Engliſh miles.
Ibrail - -	T.	22	At Ibrail our boat remained at anchor all night.
Galatz - -	W.	23	Arrived at Galatz, where we remained till the 5th of June.
		June	
Scherbeſt - -	T.	5	Dined.
Peneo - -			Slept.
Serbeneſt - -	W.	6	Dined and ſlept.
Suray - -	T.	7	Dined.
Fokſhan - -			Arrived at Fokſhan, where we remained till the 9th.
Tirkukoli - -	S.	9	Slept.
Ribnick - -	G.	10	Dined.
Marachini - -			Slept.
Buſeo - -	M.	11	Dined.
Marzinin - -			Slept.
Craltza - -	T.	12	Dined.
Aformatzi - -			Slept.

Names of Places.	Hours.	Days.	Mths.	Curſory Remarks.
to BUCHOREST		W.	13	Arrived at Buchoreſt, where we remained till the 18th.
				From Galatz to Buchoreſt, reckoning ſeven travelling days at eight hours a day and four miles an hour, the intermediate diſtance will amount to 224 Engliſh miles.
Floreſti - -	5	M.	18	
Guyeſti - -	6			Slept.
Peteſti - -	4	T.	19	Breakfaſted.
Batcheſki -	$3\frac{1}{2}$			
Rimnic - -	8	W.	20	We were obliged to ſleep in our carriage at a ſmall village on the eaſtern ſide of the Alt, arriving too late to paſs the river in the ferryboat.
Luctri - -	6			
Kineni - -	3			
Lazaretto of Tour Rouge	$1\frac{1}{2}$			Arrived at the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge, where we were obliged to perform a quarantine of ten days.
Hours	37			
				From Buchoreſt to Tour Rouge, we travelled at the rate of about ſix miles an hour.—The number of travelling hours amounts to 37.—The diſtance muſt therefore be about 222 Engliſh miles.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			June	
From the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge to HERMANSTADT -	3	S.	30	Dined and slept.
Magh - -	1			
Reismark - -	1			
Mullenbach - -	1			
Schiboth - -	1			
Szasvaros - -	1½			
Deva - -	1½			
Lesnek - -	1			
Dobra - -	1			
Croszed - -	1			
Rossova - -	1			
Faszed - -	1			
Boschur - -	1			
Lugos - -	1½			
Szinerszeg - -	1			
Kesveres - -	1		July	
TEMESWAR - -	2	T.	3	Breakfasted and dined.
Klein Petzkeret -	1			
Czadat - -	1			
Komlos - -	1			
Mokrin - -	1			
Klein Kanischa -	1½			
SZEGEDIN - -	2			
Szatmacy - -	1			
Kistelch - -	1			
Petery - -	1			
Felegyhaza - -	1			
Paka - -	1			
Ketskemet - -	1			
Foldeak - -	1			
Oerkeny - -	1			
Inares - -	1			
Ocsa - -	1			
Sarokszar - -	1			
BUDA - -	1½	T.	5	Dined and slept.
Voroszvar - -	1			
Dorrogh - -	1½			
Neudorf - -	1			
Nesmuhl - -	1			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			July	
to COMORN - -	1			
Ais - -	1			
Gony - -	1			
RAAB - -	1			
Hochstrafs - -	1			
Weiselburg - -	2			
Rakgendorf - -	1			
PRESBURG - -	1½	S.	7	Breakfasted and dined.
Altenburg - -	1			
Rögelsbrun - -	1			
Fischament - -	1			
Schwechat - -	1			
WIEN - -	1			
Posts	60½			The number of Posts from Tour Rouge to Vienna amounts to 60½. Reckoning, on an average, nine English miles to each post, the distance will be 544½ English miles.

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ERRATA.

Page 20 line 19 *for* Montreuil, *read* Clermont.
44 — 5 *for* employs, *read* employ.
66 — 21 *for* Cope-Gorge, *read* Coupe-Gorge.
144 — 8 *for* them, *read* it.
153 — 16 *for* chaunted, *read* chanted.
220 — 10 *for* are, *read* is.
230 — 23 *for* ſad, *read* bad.
321 — 6 *for* Torgoviſt, *read* Tergoviſt.
372 — 17 *for* them, *read* it.

TRA-

TRAVELS

THROUGH

FRANCE, &c.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

LONDON, Feb. 13, 1792.

I FEEL myſelf very much flattered by your earneſt and repeated ſolicitations that I would tranſmit to you an account of the tour which I commence to-morrow.—Were I to reſiſt any longer, I ſhould aſſume a conſequence to which I am

by no means entitled :—And I conſent with leſs reluctance, from a conviction that your candour will make a proper allowance for the defects with which it may abound, and that your partiality, if it induce you not to approve, will at leaſt prevent you from condemning that plan of communication which, after ſome reflection, I have at length determined to adopt.

It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of every thing which may excite my curioſity in the courſe of my travels.—What I ſhall ſee, has been ſeen before ; and when you are deſirous of obtaining more particular information than I ſhall convey, there are many books to which you may refer with ſatisfaction.——To be continually deſcribing the exact height of an obeliſk or the ſcrupulous dimenſions of an amphitheatre, is not only a tedious taſk to the writer, but renders the narrative dull and

and generally unintereſting.—Theſe elaborate delineations may indeed be uſeful to the architect, and may be pored over with enthuſiaſm by the antiquarian; but they will not be reliſhed by the mind of delicacy, ſentiment and taſte.—If, therefore, I ſhould ever inveſtigate with ſuch preciſe accuracy; if I ſhould ſometimes depict the ſize of an area, or expatiate on the meaſurement of a column, my only view will be to impreſs you with a juſt eſtimation of ſome of thoſe ſtupendous productions of antiquity, which neither the injuries of time, nor the ruder aſſaults of man, have yet been able to deſtroy.—I do not, however, propoſe to bind myſelf down by any fixed rules.—My digreſſions will perhaps be numerous.—Sometimes I ſhall obey the ſober dictates of reaſon: ſometimes I ſhall purſue the path which fancy traces out; and now and then, I may allow the captivating allurements of imagination to ſeduce me.

If this plan be desultory, I have only sketched it out, because I conceive that it will afford you more entertainment than any other.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER II.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

BOULOGNE, Feb. 15, 1792.

YESTERDAY morning, at ten o'clock, we ſet ſail from Dover with a fair wind; but had not proceeded on our voyage above a couple of miles, when Fortune forſook us.—The ſky which, but a few minutes before, was bright and ſerene, became overcaſt, and every ſymptom portended a tedious and uncomfortable paſſage. —The wind blew ſo directly from Calais, that it was in vain to attempt to reach the place of our deſtination, and the Captain informed us that, unleſs we conſented to go to Boulogne, we muſt inevitably paſs the night in his veſſel.—Although ſome of the paſſengers were under the neceſſity of viſit-

ing Calais, they choſe rather to incur the inconvenience of being landed twenty miles from it, than to run the riſk of remaining all night at ſea, without refreſhments, and in a place where the accommodations were not likely to invite repoſe.—Swayed therefore by theſe conſiderations, we unanimouſly agreed to go to Boulogne.

At ten o'clock at night, we were nearly two miles from the harbour, with no proſpect of advancing much farther, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water, (the tide being out) when two boats paſſed us with great rapidity.—One of them, ſhortly after, came along-ſide our veſſel, and offered to carry us aſhore.—The propoſal was too enticing not to be readily accepted; and in leſs than two minutes, all the paſſengers, who were ſixteen in number, had, by ſome means or other, found their way into the boat. Fortunately it was a large one; for had it been

but

but half the ſize, no entreaties would, I believe, have reſtrained our impatience, or prevailed on any one not to quit the packet, where we had been confined ſo long, and ſuffered ſo much.

We had juſt arranged our baggage, and taken our ſeats, when the other boat came up, and its owners were very deſirous of receiving ſome of us on board; but we were all too languid to undergo the exertion of a ſecond change of ſituation. As, however, we had but two rowers with us, we intimated a wiſh that the others ſhould contribute their aid, and tow us into port. This motion our heroes conſidered, I fancy, as a direct attack on their characters and ſkill; for they rejected it with ſcorn, replying, that they knew their duty as ſeamen, and required no aſſiſtance. We yielded; but the other boat was hardly out of ſight, when

we had ample reaſon to condemn our blind confidence.

By this time the ſtrength of our men was nearly exhauſted, and ſoon after, we found that the alternate ebb and flow of the tide had driven us on ſome rocks. The night was dark; the wind tempeſtuous; the ſea high; and to crown our comforts, it rained plentifully. We now enquired with ſolicitude how long it might be before they could land us; and aſtoniſhing as it may appear, it is nevertheleſs a fact, that theſe fellows who were fiſhermen, and whoſe ſole occupation, for many years paſt, had been that of ſailing along the coaſt near Boulogne, ſo far from anſwering our queſtion, could not even inform us where we were.—We deplored and execrated their ſtupidity, but could do no more.—One moment riding on a boiſterous wave, the next bumping on an inhoſpi-

inhoſpitable rock, our danger evidently increaſed, and we at length began to be alarmed about our ſituation.

After a ſhort conſultation, we reſolved to make a general ſhout, in hopes of being anſwered from the ſhore; but it was without effect.—About half an hour after, our boat beginning to fill with water, and our impatience and apprehenſions augmenting, we exerted our lungs a ſecond time, and ſent forth a moſt vigorous but diſcordant yell, which was reſponded in ſuch ſimilar tones, that in a leſs anxious and irkſome ſituation, they might eaſily have been miſtaken for the echo.—Grating to the ear as theſe vocal ſounds moſt aſſuredly would have been on any other occaſion, they were then liſtened to with ecſtacy, nor could the moſt melodious ſtrains have yielded a more ſatisfactory entertainment.—We regarded them as the forerunners of relief, and were not

not diſappointed; for, in a few minutes, our boat was ſurrounded by a troop of women, who, by the light of a lanthorn, after wading above a quarter of a mile through the water, had diſcovered us.—You may poſſibly be conjecturing what women could have to do, up to the knees in water, at this time of night; but in this *poliſhed* part of the world, the office of carrying paſſengers from the boats to the ſhore, is allotted to the female ſex.

There was with us a very luſty gentleman, who was particularly anxious to avail himſelf of the conveyance with all poſſible expedition; but no ſooner had one of theſe Amazons approached, and ſurveyed his bulk, than ſhe turned her back towards ſome lighter burden.—He was left the laſt in the boat, when an elderly matron, who had certainly lived long in the world without gaining much experience, was intrepid

enough to venture to receive him on her ſhoulders; but when ſhe had accompliſhed little more than half her journey, ſhe was ſo oppreſſed with fatigue, that ſhe let him fall into the water.—Not being able to ſpeak a word of French, he vented his rage by uttering a few Engliſh oaths, expreſſive of Gallic awkwardneſs, which were neither attended to nor underſtood. In this dilemma his conductreſs deſerted him, and he was obliged to follow her to the inn on foot.

A good ſupper ſoon drove away all unpleaſant ſenſations, and every one had ſome little anecdote to relate which contributed to promote conviviality.—Thus it is, the remembrance of paſt misfortunes and embarraſſments ſerves to enhance the pleaſure of preſent comfort and ſecurity.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER III.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

PARIS, Feb. 19, 1792.

THOSE ſenſations which are generally experienced by Engliſhmen on their arrival in France for the firſt time, occaſioned by a ſudden and total change of cuſtoms, language, dreſs, and even face of the country, were felt by me near eight years ago. I well recollect that then, every thing I ſaw appeared like a dream, nor could I immediately reconcile the concluſions of my reaſon with the evidence of my ſenſes. —The contraſt, in this reſpect, having loſt its novelty (and my mind anticipating what was to happen) was by no means ſo ſtriking.—But when I witneſſed and contemplated that total revolution of ſentiment and

and manners which little more than three years have accompliſhed, I was almoſt equally ſurpriſed. The brow of the aged was lowering; the cheek of the young was not clothed with its accuſtomed cheerfulneſs; in ſhort, that gaiety of heart, which had ſo long been the characteriſtic of Frenchmen, was no longer apparent. A thoughtfulneſs, an anxiety was viſible in every countenance, and the effects which proceed from uncertainty, poverty and diſtreſs were openly betrayed.

From the moment I ſet my foot in France, ſpecie vaniſhed from my eyes, and nothing but paper, iſſued according to preſent exigency, and without any ſubſtantial fund to ſupport its credit, was to be ſeen.

I whiſpered to my Friend H——*: Af-

* This Gentleman accompanied me from London to Marſeilles.

fairs

fairs cannot remain long in this deplorable ſtate; for no people, who have once taſted happineſs, will voluntarily relinquiſh it, or be perſuaded to ſubmit to a change of Government which can inſure nothing but miſery and degradation.

But I ſhall delay the diſcuſſion of political topics until I have collected ſufficient materials to enable me to deliver my ſentiments with deciſion.

After an early dinner on the 15th, we left Boulogne. It is a large city, rather well built than otherwiſe, and contains about thirty thouſandinhabitants, ten thouſand of which are National Guards:—Such is the ardour for military fame which at preſent pervades France!—I was informed that a few years back, the Engliſh ſmugglers paid annually, to the people of this place, between three and four millions of livres; but that

that the vigorous exertions of our Miniſter had ſo conſiderably reduced the profits of this illicit traffic, that it was now ſcarcely worth purſuing: a clear proof of the utility of the regulations which have been enacted!

We paſſed through Montreuil juſt as it was beginning to grow duſky.—Whilſt they were changing our horſes at the Poſt-houſe, half a dozen drunken ſoldiers, in the national uniform, whoſe vociferations we had heard from ſome diſtance, ſurrounded our carriage rather tumultuouſly, exclaiming, "Voilà des Ariſtocrates!"—We aſſured them that, on the contrary, we were Engliſhmen and ſincere patriots.—Theſe laſt words ſatisfied them, and they civilly wiſhed us a pleaſant journey.—I only mention this anecdote to convince you that the Ariſtocratical party is ſtill regarded with an eye of jealouſy and dread.

On

On the 16th, we ſlept at Abbeville which, after Amiens, is the largeſt city in Picardy. —It is well fortified, and carries on a conſiderable trade, particularly in broad cloth, the manufacture of which is in high repute.

On the 17th, we ſtopped to dine at Amiens which is a large, handſome and ſtrongly fortified city, ſtanding in a pleaſant ſituation on the banks of the Somme.—The ſtreets are wide and regular, the ſquares ſpacious, and the houſes ſubſtantially built.

Whilſt dinner was preparing, I went to ſee the cathedral, which is one of the moſt magnificent Gothic buildings in the kingdom; but ſince the neglect of religion, and the perſecution of the prieſts, the ſplendour of the French churches has been faſt declining; and all the moſt coſtly decorations, which formerly graced the inſide of this, have

have been deemed ſuperfluous, and removed by the ſacrilegious hand of ſome public plunderer.

No ſooner does your carriage ſtop, in any town or village in France, than it is immediately thronged with beggars who earneſtly implore your relief. Since the revolution, their number has been conſiderably augmented.—At Clermont, one man in particular attracted our notice. Even his companions in misfortune ſeemed to be anxious for the ſucceſs of his application, and in their concern for his miſeries to forget their own. He was really an object worthy of compaſſion. Every feature of his face was diſtorted, and the pallid languor which was imprinted on his countenance, too ſtrikingly, I fear, portrayed the meaſure of his ſufferings. Yet there was a kind of placidneſs in his deportment which, at intervals, expunged the picture of woe, the

accumulated afflictions of many years had been contracting and confirming, and which warranted one to ſay:—That man, however defective he may be in other reſpects, poſſeſſes a good heart.—He intereſted our feelings very much, and enquiring into the circumſtances of his fortune, we found that, in addition to all his other calamities, his reaſon was impaired.—How the ſympathetic breaſt is torn by the review of ſuch complicated miſery!—If the mind be vigorous, all corporeal imperfections and infirmities may be contemplated with philoſophy, and borne with fortitude: but, when mental imbecility unites with bodily diſeaſe; when the grand mound which ſeparates and diſtinguiſhes man from the brute creation is levelled; the proſpect is too afflicting to behold.—Happy indeed, that the ſufferer is unacquainted with the ſeverity of his lot; for the thorough perception and conviction of a derangement

of intellect, muſt, I think, be the moſt horrid and cruel torture that can enter into the imagination of man.

When, my friend, we obſerve that every corner of the habitable world teems with wretchedneſs, and furniſhes inſtances of humiliation, how thankful ought he to be who is bleſſed with the full enjoyment of all his faculties! how careful to avoid an improper application of them! how ſtudious to improve and extend their various powers!—A peaceful mind ſtrengthens the body; a healthful body invigorates the mind; and as it is our duty and our intereſt to avoid as much as poſſible, both bodily pain and mental perturbation, we ſhould never allow ourſelves to neglect either.—But although it be incumbent on us to pay a ſufficient attention to the body to preſerve its health and activity, it is the

mind which demands our principal care and ſolicitude: For when the mind has been once habituated to virtue; when it has been cultivated with aſſiduity, and properly ſtocked with uſeful and ornamental knowledge; a man may then, and *then only*, conſider himſelf independent. He will be reſpectable in every ſituation, and the inexhauſtible fund of ſatisfaction and amuſement which he poſſeſſes within himſelf, will mitigate his ſufferings on the bed of ſickneſs, and yield him ſociety amidſt the horrours of a dungeon.—Riches and rank may be lulled by the ſoothing accents of purchaſed adulation; but talents and merit will meet with demonſtrations of true reſpect, and be gratified with the voice of manly praiſe.

Before our carriage drove off from Montreuil, we ordered the poſtillion to give ſome-

ſomething to this poor unfortunate man. —He could juſt underſtand us, and returned a look of gratitude which ſpoke more feelingly to the heart, than all the graces and refinements of elocution.

On Saturday we dined at Chantilly, and arrived here yeſterday.

The delightful palace and gardens of the Prince of Condé, I ſaw when I was laſt in France. They were then the reſidence of peace, plenty and contentment: At this moment, the eſtate is ſequeſtered, and its owner is an exile.—Although it is ſtill open to the inſpection of the public, I felt no inclination to reviſit it in its preſent fallen ſtate; for I have a mind little diſpoſed to receive any ſatisfaction from traverſing the abode of ſpiritleſs dejection, or to reliſh that brutal pleaſure which

ariſes from the contemplation of injuſtice, rapacity and perſecution.

I was told that many things on this eſtate were, from abſolute neglect, mouldering to decay, and that the game, which was formerly ſo abundant, and was preſerved for the diverſion of the Prince, had, ſince his retreat, been perſecuted by the peaſantry with ſuch unremitting diligence and zeal, that it is totally deſtroyed.—Such will ever be the blind fury of the multitude!—Whenever a privilege is granted which their happineſs does not require, and from the exerciſe of which they can derive no ſolid advantage, they will never reſt till they have annihilated it, by exhauſting the ſource which ſupplies the means of enjoyment.

Before we reached Paris, we ſtopped at St. Denis, where there is a very noble church,

church, which is alſo remarkable for being the burial-place of the Kings of France.—Some of the monuments are very magnificent, and the treaſure was formerly one of the richeſt in Europe.

On entering the metropolis and the other great cities we paſſed through, we were not incommoded or delayed by the troubleſome viſitations and enquiries of impertinent Cuſtom-houſe officers, whoſe frequent intruſions uſed to be a great drawback on the pleaſures of travelling in this country. This was an abuſe, at the abolition of which every one muſt rejoice, as their ſervices anſwered no good purpoſe, and were only a frivolous pretence for keeping them in pay.

The roads through Picardy (for I ſhall adhere to the antient diviſion of France)

are generally good. The country is open and well cultivated, and its principal production is wheat.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER IV.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

PARIS, Feb. 23, 1792.

DURING our reſidence in this overgrown and populous city, ſo great has been our deſire of employing our time to the beſt advantage, that even the ſeverity of the coldeſt and moſt unpleaſant weather you can well imagine, has not been able to keep us within doors.

What a ſtrange inquiſitive being man is! When his curioſity is once on the wing, no trouble appears repulſive, no obſtacle inſurmountable; but he levels in his imagination the road which is to conduct him to the concluſion of his wiſhes, and allows no intermediate difficulty to check his

his inclination, or deter him from the purſuit.

Anxious to behold the place of the King's confinement, our firſt walk was to the palace of the Thuilleries, and our conductor began his obſervations by pointing out to us the four places, at one of which it is conjectured that the unfortunate Louis made his eſcape, when he fled from his capital.—Three of them are now ſtrongly barricaded, and the other is blocked up.—Since that fatal period, ſome National Guards have been conſtantly ſtationed at the windows of his apartment; and as if they gloried in inſulting the feelings of a fallen Monarch, they ſeemed to be emulous of rendering themſelves as conſpicuous as poſſible.

The external magnificence of the building is uncommonly ſtriking; yet notwithſtanding its ſuperiority in that reſpect, from the

the ſilent gloomineſs which hovers round it, one would little ſuſpect it to be the actual reſidence of the firſt magiſtrate of a great empire.

That too much money was formerly diſſipated in maintaining the ſplendour of the French court, every one will readily admit: and as millions were not created to ſatisfy the profuſeneſs or adminiſter to the caprices of one individual, it was proper that an extravagance, which was highly detrimental to the intereſts of the community, ſhould receive a check, and be compreſſed within narrower limits.—But on the other hand, few will contend, that whilſt a King ſits on the throne, and forms an important branch of the conſtitution, a nation ſhould not generouſly contribute to his ſupport, and be even jealous of the invaſion of that dignity which is ſuitable to his rank. For the generality of mankind is ſo guided and determined

mined by the immediate impreſſions which they receive through the organs of ſenſe, that they are incapable of entering into abſtract and ſpeculative points, or of carrying their obſervations to remote conſequences. —They know not how to diſtinguiſh between plainneſs and inſignificance; and with them, when once the outward forms of that pomp and parade which they have been taught to venerate, are aboliſhed, want of reſpect, if not contempt, will ſpeedily enſue.

On our return home, we paſſed through the Louvre, and had the mortification to ſee that elegant ſtructure, on which ſuch immenſe ſums have been laviſhed, and which is conſidered as one of the completeſt ſpecimens of architecture which modern times have produced, in a ſtate of rapid decay. The roof of one of the fronts has fallen in, nor have they any thoughts of repairing

pairing it. It is paſſed every day by thouſands of people, and viewed with as much unconcern, as if it had been the work of an hour, or only exhibited the wreck of ſome miſerable hut. If Louis the XIVth were to riſe from the dead, and behold his favourite palace in this neglected and ruinous condition, how the blood would boil in his veins!

One morning, in the courſe of our rambles, we witneſſed a ſingular and ſhocking inſtance of the inhumanity of the Pariſians. —A poor man had fallen down in the middle of the ſtreet, in a fit of epilepſy, where he was ſuffered to remain, quite unheeded, in ſtrong convulſions.—The paſſengers were numerous; but not one approached to his relief, or even had the charity to remove him from the danger of being cruſhed to death by the carriages which were continually paſſing. You can ſcarcely conceive how

how I was ſtruck with this proof of more than ſavage indifference; for if Fortune had not thrown us in his way, this poor fellow would probably have loſt his life.—We immediately bribed the callous hearts of his countrymen, and had him conveyed to a neighbouring coffee-houſe, and attended to. Nor do I think that any praiſe is due to us for fulfilling ſuch a duty.—Benevolence, thank God! is ſtill the companion of the heart, and any man of common humanity would have done as much.

The whole city is ſplit into parties, and at the corner of every principal ſtreet, the glaring letters of ſome inflammatory hand-bill invite the eye.—All the coffee-houſes are crowded with pretended politicians, who, according to their various prejudices, vent the torrent of their fury; and groups of hirelings, half intoxicated, are every where bawling out their national airs.—Even at

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the theatres, places which were inſtituted for relaxation and rational amuſement, the boiſterous voice of faction intrudes itſelf, and cannot be ſilenced.—The Ariſtocratical party, however, has lately, after a ſevere ſtruggle, evidently gained ground, and is now ſufficiently reſpectable to venture to avow itſelf.

A few nights ago we went to the *Comedie Italienne*, where we were very well entertained.—Caius Gracchus was repreſented, a tragedy which abounds with the language and ſpirit of republicaniſm.—The merit of the actor who performed the principal character was very ordinary; but the plaudits which were ſhowered down upon him, when he repeated a line in praiſe of liberty, were not eaſily appeaſed; whilſt many, in another part of the houſe, cheered the Conſul with marks of their approbation, when he delivered a ſentence expreſſive of good order

order and the neceſſity of preſerving the different ranks of ſociety.—And although the manifeſtations of theſe were generally overpowered by the ſhouts and hiſſes of the oppoſing demagogues, it was not without a conteſt. At the concluſion of the play, a moſt farcical incident occurred. Gracchus, who but a few minutes before had died on the ſtage of his wounds, was loudly called for, nor did the clamours of the pit ſubſide till he made his appearance; when, after being gratified with repeated burſts of applauſe, he was again permitted to retire to the gloomy manſions of the dead.

The preceding evening, the Queen, accompanied by the Dauphin, honoured this theatre with her preſence, which we unfortunately were not apprized of, till it was too late to go.—The box in which ſhe ſat was not diſtinguiſhed from any of the others by the moſt trifling decoration. It is however

ever ſaid, that ſhe was tolerably well received, and that ſome few, who refuſed to take off their hats when ſhe entered, were treated with indignation, and were at laſt compelled to obey the reiterated cries of the audience.

Yeſterday morning we went to the National Aſſembly, and never were my expectations more thoroughly diſappointed. Inſtead of that decent ſolemnity with which one naturally conceives that the public affairs of a great nation are conducted, it only exhibited a ſcene of ſhameleſs riot and confuſion—and I can compare their proceedings with nothing more aptly than with thoſe of an Engliſh ale-houſe, where every one talks and nobody liſtens; but with this difference, that more noiſe was made becauſe there were more members.—The Preſident called to his aid all the arts of geſticulation and grimace to preſerve order, and inſpire re-

ſpect, without gaining the deſired end.—Over and over again, he had recourſe to the bell, whoſe ſolemn tone is the ſymbol of his authority; but even the energetic vibrations of that grand political engine, awful as they were, could not calm the violence of the ſtorm.—Fifty orators ſtarted up at the ſame moment, all equally eager to deliver their ſentiments; and when one, after mature deliberation, was named by the Preſident, ſuch a conſtant buz prevailed through the hall, that it was almoſt impoſſible to catch a word which fell from his lips. But this is not much to be wondered at, ſince the auditors in the galleries are permitted to argue aloud with each other, and to teſtify marks of their approbation and cenſure.

When the King viſits the Aſſembly, he is *graciouſly* permitted to ſit at the Preſident's right hand, and no other mark of diſtinction is

is allowed to be ſhewn ;—ſuch is the deference which is now paid to Royalty in France !

After having obſerved, for about half an hour, the proceedings of this tumultuous meeting, we withdrew, with very little inclination to return.—In the *Conſtituent* Aſſembly, there were ſeveral men of information and talents: Some *few* are reported to lie concealed in this ; but their exertions are ſo overpowered by the licentious indecency of the *many*, that they are incapable of rendering their country any ſervice.

Our next walk was to the church of Ste. Géneviéve, which is one of the nobleſt ſtructures in Paris, and is deſtined to receive the remains of thoſe who may, in future, be thought entitled to the gratitude of the State. —The aſhes of Voltaire and Mirabeau, which were carried there with the moſt ridi-

culous and oſtentatious parade, are, for the preſent, depoſited in a vault, and the monuments are to be erected when the money can be ſpared. Over the porch of this church is inſcribed in letters of gold: "Aux grands hommes: la patrie reconnoiſſante;" which ſentence, although it conſiſt but of ſix words, is aſſerted by many to be very deficient in point of grammatical accuracy.—This, however, I ſhall leave to French grammarians to ſettle.

The *Place Victoire*, where Louis the XIVth was by the vanity of his ſubjects, for ſo many years, crowned with laurels which he never gained, is crowded every morning with people, whoſe buſineſs is to buy up ſpecie with aſſignats. They are ſaid to be employed by ſome eminent Paris Bankers, who are unwilling that their names ſhould be made public.—In clandeſtine tranſactions, there are always grounds for

for ſuſpicion. In theſe, I underſtand that the offers which are made are very low, and that the full exchange is never to be expected.

Paris, on the whole, as a city, is very dirty and very indifferently built.—The ſtreets are irregular and narrow, and, from the want of a ſide pavement, the foot paſſengers run the riſk of being cruſhed to death by the carriages which are continually paſſing, and which are driven with great fury.—Many very elegant and magnificent ſtructures are, however, diſperſed through different parts of the town; and the *Palais Royal*, two or three of the ſquares, and a few of the ſtreets which have been lately built, are extremely grand and ornamental.—With regard to the churches, palaces, cabinets of curioſities, and collections of pictures and ſtatues, theſe are not the times to ſee them. Many of them, indeed, which formerly were

the delight and admiration of ſtrangers, have already fallen a ſacrifice to the ſavage and indiſcriminate fury of the miſguided populace.

To-morrow we ſet off for Lyons.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER V.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

LYONS, Feb. 29, 1792.

AFTER a pleaſant journey from Paris, we arrived here this afternoon at three o'clock, and drove immediately to the Hotel de Milan, where we find ourſelves extremely well accommodated.

A few ſtages beyond Paris, we ſtopped to change horſes at Melun, which is a large town, pleaſantly ſituated on the Seine, which forms an iſland within its boundaries. Two handſome bridges are thrown over the river, and the caſtle and two or three of the churches are worth noticing.—It is extremely well peopled, and the in-

habitants carry on a traffic in corn, flour, wine and cheeſe.

When we reached Fontainebleau, the evening was juſt beginning to ſet in, ſo that we could not ſee the King's Palace to any advantage; but were obliged to hurry through it, without allowing ourſelves time to examine, even the pictures, with accuracy. The building has a ſtately appearance, rather on account of its extent than from the materials of which it is compoſed. It conſiſts of ſeveral piles, erected at different times, in the diſpoſal of which no regard has been paid to the rules of ſymmetry. Many of the apartments are fitted up with magnificence and taſte, and the chapel is univerſally admired.—What however principally attracted my attention was the gallery of Francis the Iſt.—It is of a great length, and in the days of that munificent

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and ſplendid Prince, was frequented by his Court as a morning parade. One ſide of it is lined with ſmall receſſes, which were then made uſe of as ſhops, where the moſt elegant and coſtly goods were diſplayed. The noblemen purchaſed theſe expenſive articles, and preſented them to the ladies: A proof of the profuſeneſs and gallantry of the times!

The French Kings have, for many centuries, made uſe of this caſtle as a hunting ſeat; and the foreſt which ſurrounds it, and which contains within its limits near thirty thouſand acres, is ſtocked with every ſpecies of game.—Since the epoch of liberty, ſome of the peaſantry have been audacious enough to attempt to take the pleaſures of the chace within theſe domains; but the ſpirited reſiſtance of the inhabitants of the town has hitherto proved ſucceſsful.

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The day after we left Fontainebleau we paſſed through Montargis which is ſituated on the banks of the Loing, a ſmall diſtance from the ſpot where the celebrated Orleans Canal forms a junction with that river.—The country which ſurrounds it is very pleaſant, and is well ſtocked with wood.—A few ſtages beyond Montargis ſtands Briare, which is an inſignificant place, and only remarkable for the canal which bears its name, and which joins the Seine with the Loire.

From Briare to Nevers the road runs chiefly along the banks of the Loire, the vineyards begin to appear, and the eye is gratified with many beautiful and picturesque views.

Before we reached Nevers, we paſſed through La Charité and Pougues.—The firſt is a large but gloomy town, and contains

contains nothing worth ſeeing, but the bridge over the Loire, and the priory of Cluni.

Pougues is chiefly celebrated on account of its two fountains, whoſe waters are ſaid to be very effectual in the cure of the dropſy, and ſome other diſorders, on which account it is much reſorted to by invalids.

At Nevers we were detained a day, in conſequence of the breaking up of the ice on the Loire, which rendered the paſſage of the river dangerous. There is a handſome ſtone bridge over it; but, at preſent, it is totally uſeleſs, the two middle arches having been carried away, about a year ago, by the preſſure of the water, which roſe to an aſtoniſhing height. How long it will be allowed to remain in this ruinous ſtate, it is impoſſible to conjecture,

ture, as they do not yet even talk of repairing it.

The fortreſs is alſo worth ſeeing, as well as the manufactures of glaſs and earthen ware, which employs a great many of the inhabitants.

In the evening my friend H—— took me to ſee a phyſician of his acquaintance, who is a very curious facetious old fellow, and entertained us with his converſation and a ſupper, which were both excellent.—Indeed, he produced ſo many good things at his table, and preſſed us to partake of them with ſuch uncommon earneſtneſs, that I could not help being illiberal enough to ſuſpect that he had ſome deſign againſt us, and wiſhed to enroll us, for a few days, on the liſt of his patients.—If, however, this was the caſe, he was diſappointed, for we left Nevers early the next morning.

This

This old gentleman's entertainment, and the perſevering manner in which he inſiſted, that we ſhould partake of almoſt every diſh of which it was compoſed, have furniſhed me with a fair opportunity of troubling you with my ideas, concerning the true meaning of the term *hoſpitality*.—I dare ſay they will completely accord with your own; and indeed, if they ſhould not, as I intend to be very conciſe, you will not, at all events, be any great loſer, by reading what I have to advance on the ſubject.

True hoſpitality then, in my opinion, conſiſts in making your houſe, the houſe of your gueſts; and in allowing every man, whilſt he is entertained at your expence, exactly to follow his wiſhes; ſo long, at leaſt, as they are conformable to thoſe preſcribed rules of ſociety, which it would be dangerous to infringe.—A departure from this line of conduct, is exacting

acting a very ſevere penalty as the price of an invitation; for nothing can be more unpleaſant to a perſon of good-breeding and good-ſenſe, than to be beſieged on every ſide, and officiouſly preſſed to take what he has already declined.—In England, however, as well as in other countries, this matter has been a good deal miſunderſtood.—With us, in ſociety, you are frequently obliged to drink, and in France to eat, more than you are diſpoſed to reliſh: When properly confined, they are both excellent things; but when carried beyond a certain pitch, they are fully as diſagreeable, and are only calculated to excite diſguſt.—Every reſtraint, which a landlord impoſes on his gueſts, is a deviation from my ideas of politeneſs, and a breach of the genuine ſpirit of urbanity: and why, in this country, it ſhould be conſidered as leſs polite to urge a man to eat againſt his will, than to compel him to drink, when

when he has already drunk enough, I never could comprehend.—If a gentleman, at his own table, were to ſay to his company, You *muſt* abſolutely eat another ſlice of beef, every one would be ſhocked at the groſſneſs of his manners; but if he inſiſt on your taking another glaſs, or even another bottle of wine, it is regarded as the ſure ſign of a generous and ſocial diſpoſition.—Now, where, in fact, is the difference? For if the one be as diſagreeable as the other to the perſon addreſſed, the tranſgreſſion againſt the laws of hoſpitality is preciſely the ſame.—Some men of ſtrong conſtitutions can eat and drink plentifully, and not only have the power, but the inclination; whilſt others of more delicate temperatures, are deficient in both. They are ſatisfied with what nature requires, and that which ſhe requires is, with them, very little.—Every one ought, therefore, to be

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at full liberty to pleaſe himſelf, and to eat and drink according to the extent of his appetite and inclination.—For my own part, I never ſhould wiſh to keep the bottle from the lips of thoſe who are dry, or to force wine down the throats of thoſe who have an averſion from drinking.—This is the only method of making your gueſts eaſy and happy, and true politeneſs and hoſpitality can, I think, reſt on no other foundation.

On the 27th we dined at Moulins, which is the capital of the Bourbonnois, and was formerly the reſidence of the ancient Dukes of Bourbon. It is ſituated on the Allier, in the middle of a fertile and extenſive plain, and is much reſorted to on account of its medicinal waters. It is ſaid to take its name from the many wind-mills in the neighbourhood. The inhabitants carry on a conſiderable

conſiderable traffic in cutlery, which they bring to greater perfection than can be attained in any other part of the kingdom.

As we alighted from our carriage, we were followed into the inn by about a dozen women, who had each a portable box, containing knives, ſciſſars, and various trinkets in ſteel. Every one begged, with importunity, that we would buy ſomething; but we were deaf to their entreaties, and ſhould, I believe, have eſcaped without any expence, had not, at the very moment they were withdrawing, a moſt lovely girl entered the room, whoſe ſolicitations it was impoſſible to reſiſt.—All our reſolutions were immediately overpowered; and, as if by previous conſent, we, without heſitation, untied our purſes, and purchaſed almoſt every thing ſhe recommended.—Such is the magical influence of beauty!

In one of the churches of this town is the tomb of the celebrated Duke of Montmorenci, who was beheaded at Thouloufe, in 1632.—It was erected to his memory by his Ducheſs, and is greatly admired both for the workmanſhip and the materials.

Leaving Moulins, we did not paſs through any place of conſequence till we came to Roanne, where the Loire begins to be navigable.—Several rich merchants are eſtabliſhed in this city, and the conveniency of its ſituation for commerce, has rendered it a very flouriſhing place.

From Roanne to Lyons, the road is very hilly, and the country a good deal reſembles ſome parts of Derbyſhire.

The mountain of Tarare, which we traverſed, is three miles in length, and ſo ſteep,

ſteep, that to aſcend it, the poſt horſes generally require the aſſiſtance of four or half a dozen oxen.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VI.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

LYONS, March 1, 1792.

THE country which ſurrounds Lyons is mountainous but well cultivated, and the number of gentlemen's ſeats which preſent themſelves on every ſide, beſpeaks the conſequence and riches of this ancient city. Paris excepted, it ſurpaſſes every other in the kingdom, both in point of ſize and population. Its happy ſituation on the confluence of the Rhone and the Soane (two rivers which interſect the richeſt provinces of France) diſtinguiſhes it for its commercial advantages, and the ſpirit and enterpriſe of its inhabitants do not allow theſe channels of induſtry and wealth

wealth to remain uſeleſs and unemployed. Its chief manufacture is ſilk, which is brought, in the raw ſtate, from Provence, Piedmont, and other parts, and which, when fabricated, is diſtributed over half the globe.

As we have ſtopped here two days, I have had an opportunity of viewing almoſt every thing which is worthy of attention; and as they are rather numerous, to prevent confuſion, I ſhall ſet down the obſervations which have occurred to me, in the order they were made.

The ſtreets, like thoſe of Paris, are in general very narrow, and the houſes, which are built of ſtone, are too lofty to produce a pleaſing effect.—Many of them alſo, on account of the exceſſive heats in the ſummer, have windows of oiled paper, which give them a very gloomy and inelegant ap-

pearance. Some parts of the city are, however, uncommonly handſome, particularly the quays, and the *Place de Bellecourt*, which is ornamented with a noble equeſtrian ſtatue of Louis XIV, and is reckoned, both for the elegance of its buildings, and the proportion of its dimenſions, one of the fineſt ſquares in Europe.—The *Hotel de Ville* is much admired for its architecture and convenience; and in the centre of the bridge over the Rhone a croſs is erected, which divides the provinces of *Lyonnois* and *Dauphiné*.

The college of the Jeſuits is one of the moſt ſplendid in the kingdom. The library belonging to it, is built in the form of a croſs, and conſiſts of near 60,000 volumes, ſome of which are very rare and valuable, and in excellent preſervation. Among others, they ſhewed us an edition of Cicero's works in folio, printed in 1498, and

and taken by Louis XIV. from Louis Sforza Duke of Milan, during the war between thoſe two princes: alſo a Pliny, printed at Venice in 1472: and a Livy on vellum, in 1470, which the famous Pere de la Chaiſe ſtole from Louis XIV, and preſented to this college, of which he was a member. When it is conſidered how ſhortly after the invention of the art of printing theſe works were publiſhed, the beauty and correctneſs of the type are aſtoniſhing. There are alſo in this collection ſeveral boxes of Chineſe books, which were ſwindled by a Jeſuit from a Mandarin, and are ſaid to contain an uninterrupted hiſtory of forty-eight of the Chineſe emperors. They are curiouſly printed on very fine paper, which is uncut, and are folded together with the niceſt exactneſs; but nobody has hitherto been found, ſufficiently acquainted with the language to tranſlate them.

A cabinet of antiquities adjoins to the library; but, unfortunately, the lock of the door was deranged, which prevented us from ſeeing it.

Among the curioſities of Lyons there are ſeveral very reſpectable remains of Roman taſte and ſplendour.

The Abbey of Aiſnay was formerly the Athenæum, where the prize for eloquence was contended for, in the Greek and Latin languages. It was erected by Caligula; and the defeated competitors, as a puniſhment for their preſumption, were, by the orders of that cruel and profligate emperor, caſt into the Rhone.—There is likewiſe a church of the ſame name, ſtanding on the ruins of an antient temple, which was dedicated to Auguſtus by the conſul Lucius Munatius Plancus, the reputed founder of the town. Four ſtone

pillars, which once belonged to the original edifice, ſupport the choir of the preſent church; but, by being divided, all proportion between the height and the bulk is deſtroyed.

From the terrace of the monaſtery of the Carthuſians, there is a charming view of Lyons and the adjacent country. The gardens, which lie on a declivity bounded by the Soane, are planted with vines, which were formerly cultivated by the hands of the friars. This monaſtery, with the lands that appertained to it, has lately been confiſcated, and ſold at public auction: and its wretched inhabitants, who led a life of innocence and contentment within its walls; who regarded it as the aſylum of peace; as a ſafe and reſpectable retreat from the vices and the vanities of the world; as the boundary of their ambition on this ſide eternity; ſuddenly reduced to penury and want, are now

now neceſſitated, and moſt of them at an advanced period of life, to begin the world again; to ſeek a refuge elſewhere; and to owe their bread to a humiliating dependence on the fleeting generoſity of an iron age.——Ill-fated men! you have my compaſſion, for you have been cruelly uſed: but what could you expect, when rogues are legiſlators, and legiſlators are enriched in proportion as they plunder; when the modeſty of virtue is abaſhed by the impudence of vice; when wiſdom is perſecuted and deſpiſed, and raſcality encouraged and promoted; when a hardened and profane contempt of the moſt ſacred obligations inſures applauſe, and levels the road to power and emolument; when an antidote has been diſcovered againſt the pangs of an accuſing conſcience; and every tie of nature, morality, and religion abſorbed, by the malignant poiſon of ſelf-intereſted ambition?

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The convent of the Carmelite Nuns, which was built by the Villeroy family, at an immenſe expence, is likewiſe, it is feared, on the eve of diſſolution; for although the ornaments of the church are not yet removed, divine ſervice is no longer ſuffered to be performed in it.—The great altar is magnificent, and is adorned with a picture, repreſenting the deſcent of our Saviour from the croſs, which is one of Le Brun's moſt finiſhed productions. One of the chapels of this church is very rich, and contains the monument of the Villeroy family, which is admirably executed.

We ſaw the Abbeſs, who, with tears in her eyes, deprecated the misfortunes which ſhe ſpeedily expected to incur: and not without reaſon; for ſuch is the ſanguinary and predatory diſpoſition of the governing faction in this wretched and diſtracted country, that no diſcrimination is made between

between the good and the bad; but every conſideration is ſubſervient to their infatuated notions of preſent advantage.—They forget that juſtice is the grand and ſubſtantial pedeſtal which can alone uphold any ſyſtem of juriſprudence; and that when once that divine attribute is baniſhed from the proceedings of men, they muſt inevitably revert to a ſtate of diſſolute barbariſm and confuſion.

If it were deemed politic or neceſſary to introduce a reform into religious eſtabliſhments, and to curtail the luxuries and extravagances of the rich benefices, even *that* ought to have been effected by degrees, and ſome attention ought to have been paid to the common dictates of equity and decorum: but totally to diſpoſſeſs thouſands, without diſtinction, of the whole of their property; to deprive them of their only means of ſubſiſtence; and to leave them, for

for future proviſion, at the entire diſpoſal of chance, was an unmanly and cowardly act.—It was a *public robbery* rendered more glaringly atrocious, becauſe it was ſanctioned and ordained by a *public decree.*—— Oh! how power is perverted, when it is dealt out by contaminated minds!

It is late at night, and I muſt now conclude.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER VII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

MARSEILLES, March 8, 1792.

AT one time, we had ſome thoughts of deſcending the Rhone from Lyons, as far as Avignon; but the wind changing to an unfavourable point, we were obliged to relinquiſh this plan of a water expedition, and on the 2d, we proceeded on our journey, in the uſual way.

From the road between Lyons and Vienne, we had a noble and intereſting view of the Alps.

Vienne is delightfully ſituated on the banks of the Rhone, and is ſurrounded by high mountains. It is one of the moſt antient cities

cities in France, and is celebrated for being the place, to which Pontius Pilate is reported to have been baniſhed, when he was recalled from Jeruſalem.—His houſe and the lake in which he drowned himſelf were pointed out to us; and the church of *Notre Dame de la Vie*, which is evidently a Roman ſtructure, is ſuppoſed (at leaſt by the man who ſhewed it to us) to have been his Prætorium.—Very little credit is, however, given to the whole of this ſtory by men of information; and it is a doubt with many, whether this famous perſonage ever reſided in this city.—The cathedral is a noble Gothic ſtructure; and the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and a triumphal arch induce one to form a very favourable opinion of the former conſequence and ſplendour of the place.

At a ſmall diſtance from the ſouthern gate of this town, there is a handſome ſtone pyramid,

pyramid, which is conjectured to be the tomb of ſome antient Roman.

Between Vienne and Auberive, but on the other ſide of the river, lies the ſpot which produces the famous Côte Rotie wine (ſo called from its being a bank very much expoſed to the ſun); and a few poſts farther on, is Tain, which is a ſmall town, ſituated at the foot of the Hermitage mountain, no leſs celebrated for the excellence and flavour of the grape which bears its name.

Leaving Tain we paſſed through Valence and Montelimart, both antient and conſiderable towns.

The road from Vienne to Orange lies almoſt the whole way on the banks of the Rhone, interſecting a delicious country, which is in a high ſtate of cultivation, and extremely productive.—The meadows, the woods,

woods, the corn-fields and vineyards appear in ſucceſſion, and enchant the ſight with a charming variety of rich and pictureſque ſcenery.

On the 3d we ſlept at Orange, the city from which the illuſtrious houſe of Naſſau derives its title.—It was a place of conſiderable conſequence in the time of the Romans, who adorned it with ſeveral noble edifices: and the remains of an amphitheatre, a circus and an aqueduct are ſtill extant.—There is alſo, without the walls, a triumphal arch, dedicated to Marius, which is almoſt entire, and of ſuperior workmanſhip.

About two o'clock the following day we reached Avignon, which is a large handſome city, and agreeably ſituated, in a fertile country, on the banks of the Rhone.—It is ſurrounded with a ſtone wall, and is adorned with ſeveral noble edifices.

Notwithſtanding it is in the Pope's territories, it has not been ſheltered from the diſorders of the times. A turbulent fellow, a blackſmith by profeſſion, firſt rouſed the ſpirit of civil diſcord.—By his boldneſs and activity, he ſoon found himſelf at the head of a numerous banditti, whoſe fury raged, for ſome time, without control. This ſedition, at length, got to ſuch an alarming pitch, that it was judged neceſſary to ſend a French regiment to quell it, which effected its purpoſe, and ſecured the ringleader. Since then, he has been under ſtrict confinement; but, as the number of his partiſans is formidable, the ſentence of his puniſhment has not been declared.—This wretch, on account of the various cruelties and depredations which he has committed, is regarded as an object of ſuch hatred and horrour, that he is diſtinguiſhed by the emphatic appellation of *Cope-Gorge*.

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The temporal as well as the ſpiritual power of the Pope has, for the laſt two centuries, been gradually waning towards inſignificance.—Once the concerns of Europe were at his diſpoſal, and he could make Potentates and Empires tremble at his nod: but the magic ſpell which, for ſo many ages, operated on the credulity, and enchained the reſiſtance of mankind, has totally vaniſhed; and thoſe bulls and excommunications, which formerly enforced repentance and obedience, would produce nothing now but laughter and contempt.—This revolution of opinion is, however, a fortunate circumſtance for mankind, and every liberal and honeſt mind muſt rejoice at the diminution of an authority, which was uſurped by artifice, retained by terrour, and employed in iniquity.—The Pope, at preſent, is a mere pageant, without either power or influence; and as he no longer can diſturb the happineſs and tranquillity of the world, juſtice

ſeems to require, that he ſhould no longer be regarded as an object of attack.

From 1309 to 1376 (a ſpace of ſixty-ſeven years) Avignon was the ſeat of the Pontifical See, and with a conſiderable ſurrounding diſtrict has ſince then, a few ſhort intervals excepted, continued to acknowledge its ſovereignty.—The inhabitants, panting after liberty, and weary of their obedience to a Romiſh Prieſt, have lately expreſſed a wiſh to be reunited to the kingdom of France; and it is thought that the National Aſſembly, after offering an indemnity to the Pope too trifling to be accepted, will comply with their requeſt.

On account of theſe inſurrections and diſturbances, almoſt all the churches are ſhut up.—It was with difficulty we got admiſſion into the chapel of the *Penitens Noirs*, which is adorned with ſome valuable paintings by Mignard, and contains an ivory crucifix,

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the workmanſhip of which is ſo admirable, that it obtained the pardon of the artiſt, who was under ſentence of death.

I was very deſirous of viſiting the tomb of the beautiful Laura, whom Petrarch has immortalized by his verſes. It was erected to her memory by Francis the Iſt, who alſo wrote the epitaph.—We made ſeveral enquiries after the man, who had the keys of the church, but without ſucceſs *.

As Niſmes was only about forty miles out of our way, we ſhould hardly have been juſtified, had we allowed ſo good an opportunity of viſiting that renowned and antient city to eſcape.—It can boaſt of ſome of the nobleſt monuments of antiquity, and we ſaw

* I regret very much that, when I was at Avignon, I did not go to ſee the fountain of *Vaucluſe*, which is ſo celebrated for having been the retreat of Petrarch, and which, I am informed, is a ſpot moſt beautifully romantic.

there, what neither Greece nor Italy can produce.

About two or three miles before we arrived at Niſmes, we ſtopped to admire the famous *Pont du Gard*, which is a ſtupendous edifice.—It is an aqueduct, conſiſting of three bridges, one elevated on the other, and was conſtructed by Agrippa to convey water to the city.—The lower bridge, which is thrown over the river Gardon, is ſupported by ſix arches, and is 498 feet long, and 62 high. The arch, through which the river flows, is 78 feet wide, and the other five are not much ſmaller.—The ſecond bridge, which is 30 feet in height, and 819 in length, is ſupported by eleven arches, nearly of the ſame dimenſions as the firſt; and the bridge which ſuſtains the aqueduct is compoſed of 35 arches, each 17 feet wide.—The aqueduct, including the thickneſs of the ſtones, is 4 feet wide, and 5 feet high; and the

the whole of this magnificent ſtructure preſents an elevation, which, from the ſurface of the water to its ſummit, meaſures 144 feet.—It is of the Tuſcan order, and has altogether a moſt majeſtic appearance; nor can it be contemplated without ſuggeſting this reflection: that the Romans built, not only for themſelves, but for future generations, determined to tranſmit to them living teſtimonies of their power and riches.

Niſmes is a large, well built, and populous city. Its ſituation is truly delightful, having on one ſide a fertile and extenſive plain, and on the other a ſucceſſion of hills, which are covered with vines and fruit-trees. —It is one of the moſt antient cities in Europe, and contains many admirable ſpecimens of its former magnificence.

The amphitheatre, which is of the Tuſcan order, is of an elliptical form, and its greateſt diameter, including the thickneſs of the

walls, is 405 feet. Thirty-five benches (ſixteen of which ſtill remain) ranged one above the other, ſurrounded the inſide, and accommodated, with eaſe, 17,000 ſpectators.—It is built of very large blocks of ſtone, and is ſuppoſed to have been erected in the time of Antoninus Pius.—The area, at preſent, is crowded with inſignificant houſes, which the municipality have lately purchaſed at a great expence, propoſing to remove them, and to reſtore this ſuperb edifice, in ſome meaſure, to its original ſplendour.

But what principally excites the admiration of the curious is the *Maiſon Carrée*, which was formerly a temple, conſecrated to Caius and Lucius Cæſar, the adopted ſons of Auguſtus, and is eſteemed one of the moſt beautiful and beſt preſerved monuments of antiquity which Europe can produce.—It is of a ſquare form, from which

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it derives the name it now bears.—The veſtibule is ſupported by ſix fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, and twenty-four correſponding pilaſters, at equal diſtances, ſurround the building.—The ornamental parts of the ſculpture, ſuch as the frieze and the cornice, diſplay a delicacy of workmanſhip and an exquiſiteneſs of taſte, which ſurpaſs all deſcription.—A flight of ſteps, which was extended along the whole front, conduct to the temple.

The other principal curioſities of Niſmes conſiſt of a temple dedicated to Diana, and a tower, which are both in a very mutilated ſtate; ſeveral marble ſtatues, and ſome teſſelated pavement.

The fountain, which at preſent ſupplies the city with water, has not been many years finiſhed, and is juſtly admired for elegance of deſign and ſolidity of materials.

We

We arrived at Aix, the capital of Provence, on the 6th, at eleven o'clock at night, after a moſt unpleaſant and tedious journey from Niſmes.

This province has diſtinguiſhed itſelf, more than any other part of France, for its republican ſpirit, and its reſiſtance to all good government; and, indeed, the moment we entered it, we perceived a ſtriking change in the manners of the people.—At Orgon, the Poſtmaſter behaved very inſolently, refuſing obſtinately to take the aſſignats of five livres (which are, by the by, exchanged into ſmall money, at a diſcount of from 32 to 34 ſols), and would not harneſs his horſes till we threatened to ſeek redreſs from the municipality.—At one time, he made uſe of ſuch ſcurrilous language to my friend H——, with whom he was a very near match, both in point of height and muſcular ſtrength, that I was afraid a battle would have

have enſued.—If you had ſeen me ſtanding between theſe two giants, keeping them aſunder as well as I could, and employing all my eloquence to pacify them, I think you would have laughed very heartily.

From St. Canât*, the road is in a wretched condition, and infeſted by robbers, who commit their depredations, quite unheeded by the eye of Juſtice.—The night before

* Whilſt we were changing horſes at St. Canât, the Poſtmaſter came out, and, informing us of the danger of travelling to Aix by night, endeavoured to prevail on us to remain with him.—But his houſe not having a very inviting appearance, we were not diſpoſed to place much reliance on what he ſaid; and ſuſpecting he was relating theſe horrible ſtories, merely from intereſted motives, we determined to proceed.—When, however, we had got about half way, we met the Courier, attended by two men, armed with guns and cutlaſſes, and walking at the ſide of his carriage.—On enquiring of him, he told us, that what the Poſtmaſter had related, had literally happened, and that that was the reaſon of his travelling with guards.

we

we paſſed it, a man had been murdered, and the courier fired at; which raiſed our apprehenſions ſo much, that we kept our piſtols in our hands, till we were ſafe within the gates of Aix.

Aix is a large and populous city, ſtanding on an extenſive and agreeable plain, which is bounded by fertile hills.—It has long been celebrated for its baths and hot waters, which are very efficacious in gouty and ſcorbutic complaints.

The cathedral is a fine Gothic ſtructure, with a carved front, which is much admired; and the church of the Carmelites contains a beautiful picture of the reſurrection by Daret, and a curious old painting by King René.—The walks of the ſquare of Orbitello are planted with trees, and adorned with fountains.

About

About a fortnight ago 10,000 Marſeillois marched, in a tumultuous and diſorderly manner, to Aix, and diſarmed the Swiſs regiment quartered there. Fortunately it had received private orders to ſubmit, otherwiſe a dreadful ſlaughter muſt have enſued.

The road from Aix to Marſeilles interſects a delightful country, planted with vines and olives; but it is, at preſent, in ſuch a wretched condition, that, to eſcape being overturned, we were frequently obliged to deſcend from our carriage. Unleſs repaired, it will ſoon be impaſſable, which will put a ſtop to a conſiderable branch of the inland trade of the kingdom.

On my arrival here yeſterday, I met with a moſt polite reception from Madame G——, (my friend H——'s ſiſter) who inſiſted on my reſiding at her houſe, till I took my departure for Smyrna.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VIII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

MARSEILLES, March 10, 1792.

MARSEILLES* is one of the moſt conſiderable and commercial cities in France.—It contains about 150,000 inhabitants. The ſtreets of the new town are regular and ſpacious; the Lazaretto is the moſt complete building of the kind in Europe; and the harbour is one of the beſt in the Mediterranean. The country in which it is ſituated is fertile, and the

* Conſidering the antiquity and the extent of Marſeilles, it contains very few fine churches or public buildings.

climate

climate is mild and ſalubrious.—Such are the advantages which it poſſeſſes, and which might ſecure the enjoyment of almoſt every thing that is deſirable in life, did not the factious ſpirit of its inhabitants (as if deſpiſing the favours of Providence) interfere, and thwart their natural influence.

Civil diſſenſions have, ſince the Revolution, been carried to a dangerous height; and they are rapidly tending towards the annihilation of all reſtraint.

Not long ſince, the populace ſeized a poor woman, dragged her forcibly from her houſe, and, after having exhauſted their ingenuity by the infliction of the moſt horrid and excruciating tortures, *humanely* put a period to her exiſtence, by hanging her with the cord of a lantern which was near at hand. They alleged againſt her, in extenuation of theſe violent proceedings, a ca-

talogue of the blackeſt crimes, which apparently had no foundation in truth; and I have been informed, that what principally rendered her obnoxious, was having formerly been the miſtreſs of a magiſtrate, who, at the commencement of the troubles, ſaved himſelf by flight.

When the executive power is thus aſſumed by the body of the people, and exerciſed according to the dictates of fluctuating paſſion or momentary caprice; when all regular forms of juſtice are trampled on and deſpiſed; when the accuſed is denied the poſſibility of juſtification; when a depoſition is regarded as a ſufficient proof of guilt; when the ſacred throne of mercy is levelled with the ground, and a thirſt after blood and perſecution prevails; the life of no one is ſafe, and it only depends on chance, who falls a victim firſt.—But ſuch will ever be the direful effects of ungovernable

able licence! No dereliction of rectitude, no deſertion of duty, no breach of humanity, ought then to ſurpriſe us; for, when the vices of the world are not reſtrained by the ſeverity of laws, the wicked, whom ſecurity always renders courageous, will no longer ſhrink from the face of day, or dread to ſtand forward as the champions of diſorder.—The poiſon which has inſinuated itſelf into the public mind, promoting their views, they will avail themſelves of the blindneſs of the times, and openly avow their pernicious principles: nor will they ever deſiſt, till, by frequent aſſaults, they at laſt deſtroy the tottering temple of virtue, and raiſe on its wreck the profane altar of iniquity, at whoſe ſhrine they will glory to ſacrifice the remaining pittance of private worth.

Theſe active citizens, not ſatisfied with their late expedition to Aix, have reſolved

on a ſecond, to Arles, with an intention, *they ſay*, of attacking and diſperſing the Ariſtocrats*, who have intrenched themſelves there in a formidable body. But who cannot diſcern their real motive?—When the diſpenſations of equity are no longer dreaded, with what facility are pretences for plunder deviſed!

Every individual is compelled to wear the national cockade; and in order to level, as much as poſſible, all diſtinction between the rich and the poor, only one kind of bread is allowed to be baked.—Upon my word, I am at a loſs which moſt to wonder at, the wickedneſs or the folly of this degenerate people; for their crimes and inconſiſtencies ſtart up by legions, and defy all calculation.

* As I here make uſe of this term as an Engliſh word, I have left out the e final, which is an orthography more conformable to our idiom.—The French write it *Ariſtocrate*.

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The mob, intoxicated with a power which they are incapable of managing, have ſeveral times threatened to pillage the houſes of the moſt ſubſtantial merchants in the town; and I have been aſſured, that, within the laſt month, near five hundred reſpectable families, dreading the iſſue of this irreſiſtible ſpirit of equality, have privately embarked their effects on board different veſſels, determined to ſeek in other countries, that comfort and ſecurity which their own no longer affords.

Monſ. B———, a gentleman of large property, who poſſeſſes a magnificent country ſeat* in the neighbourhood of Marſeilles, has, with many others, already abſented himſelf, to avoid a ſtorm which had gather-

* The number of country-houſes in the neighbourhood of Marſeilles, is ſaid to exceed 20,000.—They afford a proof of the riches and population of this part of France.

ed over his head, and which was juſt ready to burſt.

Such is the melancholy picture of affairs in this part of France!—In many other provincial towns, the ſame ſpirit of independency has manifeſted itſelf; and if it have generally ſubſided, it has been rather owing to caſual circumſtances, than to any interference of the magiſtrates, who feel their incapacity to exert an authority with which they are indeed inveſted, but which is not ſufficiently reſpected to inſure obedience.

Whilſt diſorders of ſuch a nature are ſuffered to rage with impunity, the inability to repreſs them is clearly manifeſted; nor, in fact, can we expect to ſee good order and unanimity reſtored, till the bitter conſequences of the preſent conſtitution have brought back the body of the people to reaſon.—The corner-ſtone which ſupported

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the edifice of allegiance has been removed; the ſuperſtructure has been conſequently overturned; natural liberty has been taſted and reliſhed; and although many begin now to view it with diſguſt, the majority is not yet convinced, that it is incompatible with the fundamental principles of a ſocial union.—This truth is however gradually gaining ground, and the number of thoſe is not inconſiderable, who prefer the tyranny of the late government to the licentiouſneſs of the preſent.

Under the old conſtitution, notwithſtanding the abuſes which prevailed, the kingdom flouriſhed, and the people was comparatively happy.—Under the heterogeneous maſs of abſurdities which the National Aſſembly has been attempting to organize, and to reduce to an uniform ſyſtem, the arts have fled; commerce has dwindled; the manufactures are at a ſtand; the opulent

have withdrawn themſelves; the poor are without employ; the laws without energy; the reſources of the State exhauſted; its exigencies, beyond all precedent, augmented; public credit deſtroyed; a paper * in circulation, which is received with diſtruſt, and which has fallen ſo conſiderably from its original ideal value, that it no longer anſwers the purpoſes for which it was iſſued; the neceſſaries of life at a very enhanced price; whilſt the difficulties of procuring ſubſiſtence are multiplied: to ſum up all in a few words, happineſs and plenty have been ſupplanted by miſery and want.

When ſuch numerous and dreadful evils exiſt, eſpecially in a populous and extenſive

* Aſſignats were at about 50 per cent. diſcount.—We fortunately had ſpecie with us; and as no alteration had yet taken place in the price of horſes, we travelled through France at about half the expence we ſhould have been at, had the aſſignats been at par.

kingdom,

kingdom, bleſſed moreover with almoſt every advantage which the liberal hand of Nature can beſtow, we may ſurely, without preſumption, venture to pronounce, either that the laws are radically bad, or that the adminiſtration of them is ſcandalouſly perverted.—In this devoted country, both theſe cauſes have combined; for even thoſe few regulations which have a beneficial tendency, are neither generally nor ſcrupulouſly enforced; but every public meaſure is diſtinguiſhed by its injuſtice or inefficacy.

My opinion of French affairs has been uniform; and what a few months ago, was, in ſome meaſure, grounded on ſuppoſition, is now confirmed by obſervation. For, notwithſtanding the important diſcoveries of printing and the properties of the loadſtone, which have ſecured the world from the return of that dark ignorance which

once invaded it, and was ſtationary for ſo many centuries; notwithſtanding the light of ſcience has diſperſed from the hemiſphere of knowledge, thoſe thick clouds which once overſpread it; yet we muſt *ſtill* be guided in our concluſions of what *will* happen, from what *has* happened, and it is *ſtill* probable that ſimilar cauſes will continue to produce ſimilar effects.—— When, therefore, I ſaw a body of legiſlators, who were about to enact laws, which were intended to operate through an extenſive and populous empire, totally diſcarding from their deliberations all reference to paſt experience, and applying to theory and metaphyſics as the only ſources of information, I concluded that they were endeavouring to erect a fabric, which, if ever completed, muſt very ſoon moulder to decay.—Already the ſuperſtructure is too heavy for the foundations: it begins to totter:

ter: and the firſt blaſt of wind will probably overthrow it *.

Yours, &c.

* Since this letter was written, revolution has ſucceeded revolution, with a rapidity which I certainly did not foreſee.—I was convinced that the government which then exiſted could not ſtand long; but thoſe ſcenes of horrour and bloodſhed which France has ſince witneſſed, could never have been imagined by the moſt ſpeculative mind.

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LETTER IX.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

MARSEILLES, March 12, 1792.

I HAVE been very much ſurpriſed, during my reſidence here, at the abominable filthineſs of the ſtreets.—In the day time they are quite diſguſting, and at night, unleſs one is very expert, one really runs the riſk of being ſmothered by what is thrown from the windows.—I cannot reconcile theſe indelicacies with my ideas of refinement and civilization; and they certainly betray an innate love of dirt, which can be vanquiſhed neither by a ſenſe of propriety nor convenience.

The ſtreets of the new town are wide and regular,

regular, and all the houſes are built of poliſhed ſtone.—The quays are alſo very handſome, and the theatre is a noble ſtructure.—I was there laſt night, and was tolerably well amuſed.—Conſidering the circumſtances of the times, it was extremely well attended.

I have engaged my paſſage for Smyrna in a French veſſel which is expected to ſail every day, ſo that my detention here will probably be very ſhort.—I could almoſt wiſh that it were longer; for I have been treated with ſuch cordial hoſpitality and friendſhip by the family with whom I am ſtaying, that I ſhall leave them with great regret.

I have now traverſed France, nearly from one extremity of the kingdom to the other, and the obſervations I have communicated to you, you have received, juſt in the order they aroſe in my mind, a plan which I intend

intend to abide by in future; for what they loſe in point of arrangement, they gain by being more natural.

I have very little more to add on this part of my tour; but as there have been frequent conteſts among travellers, concerning the predominance of advantages afforded by England and France, I ſhall, before I conclude, endeavour to give you my ſentiments on this ſubject, with as much candour and moderation as I can.

I confeſs, that I feel no heſitation in deciding in favour of my own country.—As far as concerns my own feelings, whether I be ſwayed too much by prejudice or no, is of little conſequence, ſince the conviction that a thing *is* better, makes it ſo, in reality, to the perſon who entertains that opinion. —As far, however, as I would wiſh my opinion to operate on the judgment of others,

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it is incumbent on me to explain myſelf in perſpicuous terms; to clear it from miſconſtruction and errour; and to give it all the ſupport in my power.

I have known France in its happier days; and notwithſtanding the comparative ſtate of melioration, in every reſpect, which it then enjoyed, my notions were much what they are now.—I am not, however, ſo weak or ſo illiberal as to give ſuch a decided preference to my own country, as to attempt to maintain, that every thing in England is better than every thing in France, (for every country is diſtinguiſhed by bleſſings peculiar to itſelf) but merely that the advantages lie on our ſide.

As far as relates to the governments of the two kingdoms, *that* affords ſo little room for diſputation, that I have always entirely excluded it from my calculation.—With Engliſhmen

gliſhmen indeed, on that point, there can be but one ſentiment.

All then I have to do, ſetting out with theſe profeſſions, is to draw a ſketch of the manners which characterize each nation, and afterwards to examine which ſcale preponderates.

The French (I mean to ſpeak of them as they were, for I hope their preſent fit of inſanity will not laſt long) are a polite, affable, eaſy, thoughtleſs, ingenious and frivolous people.—They have an exteriour appearance which immediately engages the attention, and generally captivates at firſt ſight. They can talk, and dance, and ſing for ever; but with the ſobriety of ſteady reflection, they are little acquainted. They have brilliancy of wit; but are deficient in ſolidity of judgment. The feelings of their hearts are warm; but not durable. Their learning

is

is general; but not profound; and moſt of them have read a great deal; but ſtudied very little: ſo that their converſation is ſprightly and airy, well furniſhed with materials; but only with thoſe materials, which lie on the ſurface, and which are conſequently acquired with little trouble.—On ſubtle or abſtruſe points, they ſeldom converſe; and are better calculated for the giddy flutter of a drawing-room, than the learned diſquiſitions of the cloſet.—Their natural taſte for diſſipation and amuſements, has introduced among them an almoſt endleſs variety of each; and the great object of their lives ſeems to be, to enjoy the preſent, and to baniſh totally from their thoughts the recollection of the paſt, or the probable occurrences of the future.

Their ſociety is always cheerful and agreeable; and they certainly have, beyond every other people, diſcovered the art of tri-

fling time pleaſantly away.—To ſtrangers they are courteous and hoſpitable; but their profeſſions muſt never be underſtood in their full extent, and muſt very frequently be conſidered as mere ſounds, without any meaning whatever.—Their friendſhip is eaſily gained, and as eaſily loſt.—Whilſt you are with them they are kind, attentive and polite; when you are gone, you are thought of no more; for ſuch is the verſatility of their minds, that the ſame train of ideas ſeldom laſts long, and, unleſs revived by ſomething very ſtriking, does not often recur.

In their addreſs and deportment they are eaſy, familiar and graceful; and are never at a loſs for converſation, when they firſt accoſt you.—Initiated early into the myſteries of etiquette, and accuſtomed from their cradles to company, they always know what rules and ceremonies to obſerve, and are ſcarcely ever diſturbed by the dreadful and perplexing

ing agitations of baſhfulneſs.—The French, in ſhort, are an agreeable people, and their ſociety is always cheerful and entertaining.

The character of the Engliſh is, perhaps, leſs brilliant; but it is more reſpectable. It does not excite ſo much of our aſtoniſhment; but it commands more of our veneration. It does not ſo immediately amuſe the fancy; but it lays a ſtronger hold of the heart.

An Engliſhman, when you are introduced to him, receives you politely, without overloading you with compliments and profeſſions.—If he likes your ſociety, he tells you ſo; and when once you have made an impreſſion on his feelings, that impreſſion is laſting, and his friendſhip is ſincere.—Both by habit and education, being accuſtomed to think for himſelf, and not to adopt the opinions of others, (unleſs, after reflection and

ſcrutiny, he finds them ſuperiour to his own) he is, on important matters, a long time determining; but when he has once determined, he does not readily change.—His mind being thus frequently occupied in the ſolution of intricate and knotty problems, it is perhaps on this account, that he poſſeſſes not that facility of expreſſion and volubility of tongue, for which the French are ſo remarkable.—What, however, he loſes in number of words, is abundantly made up in weight, and no language furniſhes more modes of forcible expreſſion than our own.

Not naturally much addicted to pleaſure or to public amuſements, the Engliſh have acquired, from their long and cloſe intercourſe with their neighbours, an artificial taſte for them, which has progreſſively increaſed with the riches and luxury of the country.

In ſociety they are cheerful, without ſtraining their ſpirits to the higheſt pitch of elevation; and they go into company, as much for the promotion of friendſhip as for immediate enjoyment.—Our manners uſed to be coarſe and abrupt; but they are now, I conceive, quite ſufficiently poliſhed, and I could wiſh that they may not make nearer approaches to what is, improperly, called refinement.

Such are the diſtinctions which I have been able to make between the characters of theſe two rival nations: Which is the moſt valuable, I ſhall leave you to determine.

After having ſaid ſo much about the men, I cannot, eſpecially as I am writing to you, with any propriety, altogether deſert the ladies.—Their characters, however, are ſoon drawn,

The French women, like the men, are thoughtleſs, lively, and diſſipated; bewitching companions; but for wives, my fair countrywomen may challenge the whole female creation. The French women captivate for a day; the Engliſh women for life.

With regard to the real intrinſic comforts of exiſtence, I think they are unknown in every country but our own. We are not oſtentatiouſly ſplendid; but what we have is good, and a mere external glare would not, in our opinion, render it more valuable.—In cleanlineſs, articles of convenience and utility, we certainly ſurpaſs every country on earth. Step into the houſe of any foreigner, and afterwards into the houſe of an Engliſh gentleman, and this point is immediately determined.—The accommodations on our roads for travellers are likewiſe, beyond all compariſon, ſu-

periour

periour to thoſe which are to be met with elſewhere.

I muſt now ſay adieu, for I am ſure you will find my letter quite long enough.

Yours, &c.

LETTER X.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

SMYRNA, April 7, 1792.

ON Tueſday the 13th of March, I took leave of my friend H—— and of Madame G——, (whoſe politeneſs and kindneſs I ſhall ever remember with gratitude) and embarked on board the Cazimir, Captain J. ——, for Smyrna.

For the three firſt days, I was extremely ill; the fourth the violence of the ſickneſs began to abate; and after the fifth, I felt no inconvenience from the motion of the ſhip. —You are not, however, on that account to imagine, that my ſituation was by any means a deſirable one; for, from the moment of my departure from Marſeilles till the moment of my

my arrival at Smyrna, the time hung ſo heavily on my hands, that I would willingly have paſſed in oblivion that ſhort period of my exiſtence.

I was the only paſſenger on board; and the mind of the Captain was ſo continually wrapped up in the concerns of his veſſel, that he ſcarcely ever condeſcended to chat with me.—I had recourſe, by turns, to my books and my pen; but ſuch numerous cauſes of diſſatisfaction were almoſt perpetually intruding on my thoughts, that the amuſement, which I derived from them, was barely negative. Scarcely any author or any reflection could make me forget that I was in a French veſſel; that I was in a ſtate of confinement: and, what I moſt ſtood in need of, that there was no perſon near me whom I could call my friend.—When I roſe in the morning, I wiſhed for night; when night arrived, the morning was de-

ſired; even the hours were counted as they paſſed, and willingly conſigned to annihilation.

On the 15th, we ſaw the iſland of Sardinia. On the 16th, during the night, we paſſed the coaſt of Barbary, and on the 18th the iſland of Malta.—On the 19th, we had a fine view of Mount Etna, and on the 23d, in the afternoon, Cape Matapan preſented itſelf.

On the 24th, early in the morning, as we were entering the Archipelago, one of thoſe piratical veſſels * which infeſt that ſea was diſcovered.—She was making towards us

* We afterwards heard, that this veſſel was one of Lambro's ſquadron.—This fellow was a renegado Ruſſian, who, by his courage and activity, had collected under his command a formidable force. He captured a vaſt number of merchantmen, and was for a ſhort time the terrour of the Archipelago.

with

with all the ſail ſhe could crowd, and by eight o'clock had approached ſo near, that we could plainly diſtinguiſh her guns and men.—She ſtill continued to gain on us; and as her ſtrength was much ſuperiour to ours, I thought it not improbable that an action might take place.—This certainly was a moment which required firmneſs and deciſion; but our Captain was ſo overcome with fear, that he was totally at a loſs what meaſures to purſue.—Never ſhall I forget the melancholy and diſgraceful figure which he made. Inſtead of encouraging his men to perform their duty, and, if they were to fall, to ſell their lives dearly; with a countenance that unveiled the faintneſs of his heart, he kept walking haſtily up and down the deck, exclaiming at every other ſtep, in a moſt diſconſolate accent:—"Ah! Nous ſommes tous perdus." I never witneſſed an inſtance of ſuch baſe and daſtardly cowardice,

ardice, and my feelings were ſo exaſperated, that I almoſt longed to throw him into the ſea.—Our ſituation became every moment more critical; and the ſailors, finding that their Captain was incapable of directing them any longer, fired, without orders, two of our largeſt guns, which were ſo well pointed, that the balls were within a few feet of taking effect.—This alarmed the pirates ſo much, that they inſtantly hoiſted the Ruſſian colours, and, after ſome heſitation, ſhifted their ſails, and ſteered for the coaſt of the Morea.

The object of theſe wretches is a ſurpriſe, or an attack where they ſuſpect, that ſcarcely any reſiſtance can be made. A conteſt on equal terms, they uniformly fly, and will ſeldom encounter even an inferiour force, if it be but well prepared to receive them.

On

On the 26th, we had advanced twenty leagues beyond Cerigo *, when the wind changing to the north, and blowing rather freſhly, we were obliged to tack about, and, meaſuring back the twenty leagues, took ſhelter behind this once celebrated iſland.—Here we again had a ſight of the very piratical veſſel which had ſo much alarmed us the day before: but being now in company with an Imperial ſhip, we had nothing to apprehend.

The wind being rather favourable, on the 27th in the morning we left Cerigo, and, after beating about for three days in

* The antient Cythera; ſo frequently the theme of the Poets. It was here that Venus is ſaid to have firſt landed, when ſhe roſe from the foam of the ſea, and ſhe was worſhipped by the inhabitants in a temple, which was ſacred to her memory.—At preſent, it belongs to the Venetians; but is mountainous and barren, and ſcarcely produces a ſufficiency for its own ſupport.—On the ſouth ſide there is a ſafe and ſpacious harbour.

the

the Archipelago, took refuge in the port of Milo *.

In antient times, this iſland was very flouriſhing and populous, and during the Peloponneſian war, diſtinguiſhed itſelf by the long reſiſtance which it made againſt the efforts of the Athenians to ſubdue it.—Even ſo late as the beginning of this century, it was a place of conſiderable conſequence, and the French merchants, who were then ſettled in it, carried on an extenſive commerce.—In thoſe days, the corſairs were accuſtomed to bring all their prizes to this port to diſpoſe of them, which occaſioned a vaſt influx of ſtrangers from every part of the Archipelago, and kept up the ſpirit of adventure and ſpeculation.—But this ſcene

* The antient Melos.—This was the birth-place of the celebrated Diagoras, ſurnamed the Atheiſt, who was baniſhed from Athens in the 91ſt Olympiad, for denying the exiſtence of the Gods.

of proſperity has ſince completely vaniſhed. The French have abandoned the iſland; their churches, and the convent of Capuchins which they had founded, are in ruins, and nothing is at preſent exhibited but a picture of miſery and deſolation.

The two principal towns, which have by degrees dwindled to villages, are ſaid not to contain above a thouſand or twelve hundred inhabitants, and the deplorable appearance of their houſes beſpeaks their indolence and poverty.—They are all Greeks, except the Judge who is a Turk, and who is inveſted with a ſufficient degree of power to anſwer the purpoſes of tyranny and extortion. They waſte the greateſt part of the day in baſking in the ſun, and drinking and gaming are vices which are by no means unknown to them.

In their trifling commercial tranſactions with

with the veſſels which viſit their port, like other Greeks, they are very much addicted to chicane and low cunning.—A particular inſtance of this nature fell under my own obſervation.—One of them, who purchaſed ſome bottles of our ſailors, attempted to pay for them in falſe dollars. When he was detected, he betrayed no ſigns of confuſion; but, pledging his word that it was merely a miſtake, he deliberately put his hand into another pocket, and produced a bag of good money.

The ſoil, which is naturally fertile, and which formerly yielded in abundance olives, figs, and grapes, is now very badly cultivated, and conſequently unproductive. In ſome ſpots a little cotton is grown, and here and there a field of barley is ſeen.—The paſturage is poor, and the cattle ſmall and meagre.

The

The climate is very unhealthy, and the people in general have a ſickly appearance. The moſt prevalent diſorders are epidemic fevers and the dropſy, ſuppoſed to be chiefly occaſioned by the water, which is very bad, and ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur.

Almoſt every part of the iſland furniſhes proofs of the vaſt quantity of mineral ſubſtances which are incorporated with the earth, and there are ſeveral caverns which are incruſted with concretions of vitriol and alum, and where the heat of the atmoſphere is ſo exceſſive, that it is impoſſible to remain in them above two or three minutes.—Smoke is frequently ſeen iſſuing from the crevices in the ſoil, and, even on the margin of the ſea, in many places, the water is hot enough to boil an egg *.

* By way of experiment, we put an egg in this water, and let it remain there for ſeveral minutes, at the expiration of which, it was hot through, though not ſufficiently done to pleaſe me.

The

The women are very fanciful in their dreſs, which, notwithſtanding, is clumſy and unbecoming.—They wear their petticoats very ſhort; a faſhion, I ſhould not have objected to, did they not, at the ſame time, encumber their legs with thick folds of linen, which totally deſtroy all elegance and ſymmetry of ſhape.—They alſo paint their cheeks with a powder which is extracted from ſome marine plant, and, by the expreſſion of their eyes, plainly indicate their love of admiration.--But in this reſpect, you will ſay, they are by no means ſingular; for love of admiration is the univerſal propenſity of the ſex; and *perhaps*, it is diſplayed here in more lively colours, only becauſe the reſtraints on nature are not ſo ſevere, or the artifices and refinements ſo numerous, as in the poliſhed countries of Europe.

The harbour, as Nature has formed it, is one

one of the fineſt and moſt capacious in the world.—It is nearly circular, and is ſurrounded by lofty hills. The entrance, which is on the weſt ſide, is large enough to admit a veſſel of any burden, and, at the diſtance of about half a mile, is covered by an immenſe rock, called Antimilo: ſo that, from whatever quarter the wind may blow, the ſhipping within is ſecure.—The anchorage is very good, and a few yards from the ſhore, the water is five or ſix fathoms deep, and ſo limpid that the bottom may be eaſily diſcerned.

During our detention at Milo, we went aſhore almoſt every day; but always quitted it, without any deſire to return.

We met one morning with a poor Venetian Captain, whoſe veſſel had been wrecked in a gale of wind, as he was endeavouring to enter the harbour.—He gave us a me-

lancholy hiſtory of his adventures, and ſaid, that he did not know what was to become of him, as he had but a diſtant proſpect of meeting with a conveyance to his own country, and the Greeks had already pillaged him of the greateſt part of the merchandize, which he had ſaved from the ravages of the ſea.

On the firſt of April, we weighed anchor; but were unfortunately driven back the next morning.—On the 3d, the wind favoured us a ſecond time, and we took our departure at five in the evening.—Early the next morning we paſſed between Tino and Nicaria *, and in the afternoon we had a fine

* The antient Tenos and Icaria.—The firſt is very fruitful, and produces excellent wine and figs in abundance.—In antient times, there was a temple on this iſland, conſecrated to Neptune.—Icaria is mountainous and unproductive, and the inhabitants are miſerably poor.

view

view of Scio *, one of the moſt fertile iſlands in the Archipelago.

The wind continuing northerly, we were obliged to go within a few miles of Mitylene †, before we could double the point of land, which forms the gulph of Smyrna.

On

* The antient Chios.—This is a fruitful and populous iſland. For its wine and figs, it has always been celebrated. It alſo yields, in abundance, corn, oil, and a variety of fruits and gums. That called maſtich is remarkably fine and very plentiful. The Turks are very fond of chewing this gum, and conſume, in this way, an aſtoniſhing quantity of it.—The greateſt part of what is grown on this iſland, is bought up for the Seraglio. It is an excellent ſtomachick, and is ſaid to whiten the teeth, and ſweeten the breath.—The Sciots carry on an extenſive manufacture of ſilk, are largely engaged in commerce, and many of them are very opulent.—The women, I am informed, are very beautiful, very gay, and, in their dreſs, very fantaſtic.

† The antient Leſbos, one of the moſt celebrated iſlands in the Archipelago. In antient times, it was the

On the 4th in the morning we entered the gulph. It is bounded on each ſide by high mountains, which are clothed with the brighteſt verdure, and which frequently preſent a ſcenery that is truly romantic.—We had not advanced far before we came to a village, which is ſaid to be the ſpot where Clazomene once ſtood, a city frequently mentioned in the hiſtory of antient Greece.

Owing to a dead calm, we did not come

ſeat of learning and the polite arts, and gave birth to Pittacus, Alcæus, Sappho, Terpander, Theophraſtus, and ſeveral other renowned philoſophers and poets. It is ſtill fruitful (producing wine and delicious figs) and was formerly very populous.

One of the villages on this iſland is entirely peopled by lepers, who are not allowed to have any communication with the other inhabitants.—They intermarry among themſelves, and are ſaid to carry on the various concerns of life with as much cheerfulneſs, as if they were free from the ravages of this cruel diſtemper.

in

in ſight of the marine caſtle * till the morning of the 6th:—It is a large ſquare ſtone building, ſituated on the ſea ſhore, and planted with a few large ruſty cannon, which, when conſidered as a place of defence, only ſerve to render it contemptible.—I, however, viewed it with the moſt lively ſatisfaction, as it enabled me to contemplate the ſpeedy concluſion of an irkſome voyage, and a happy releaſe from a moſt unpleaſant ſituation.

Shortly after, I was gratified with the ſight of Smyrna.—As we approached it, I had time to obſerve, and to admire its ſituation.—It is built on the declivity of a hill, on whoſe ſummit are the ruins of a ſpacious caſtle, which commands every part

* Every veſſel, at its departure from Smyrna, pays, as a kind of tribute, to this caſtle, a dollar and a cartridge of powder, which are perquiſites allowed to the officers eſtabliſhed there, and are the whole of their ſalary.

of the city, and which, if in repair, and properly fortified, might render it almoſt impregnable.—On the other ſide, it is waſhed by the ſea, which forms one of the moſt capacious and beautiful bays in the world.

About five o'clock in the afternoon, I landed, and was immediately conducted to Mr. P——'s houſe, where I had the mortification to learn that the family was in the country.——My impatience to ſee my brother* was, however, too great to brook delay. I therefore immediately ſet off for Bournabat (a village at which Mr. P—— has his ſummer reſidence) and, in the courſe of an hour, had the happineſs of embracing a brother and a friend.

Yours, &c.

* My brother had been ſtaying at Smyrna, in the houſe of the above gentleman, for upwards of two years.—One of the principal inducements which took me ſo far from home was, that I might have the pleaſure of returning with him.

LETTER XI.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

SMYRNA, April 23, 1792.

SEVEN cities diſpute the honour of Homer's birth.—According to the beſt founded opinions, Smyrna is alone entitled to the claim.—A ſpot of ground is ſhewn, on which it is conjectured the ſchool of that divine poet ſtood, and within whoſe walls he is ſuppoſed to have finiſhed his immortal Iliad.—In thoſe days, it might have been inſignificant in point of extent and population. Through ſucceeding ages, the production of perhaps the ſublimeſt genius, that the world ever ſaw, has been an enviable diſtinction.

Smyrna, notwithſtanding the various revolutions and diſaſters which it has experienced, is ſtill a conſiderable city, being about a mile and a half in length and nearly of the ſame breadth.—The inhabitants are compoſed of Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians and Franks, and are computed to amount to about 100,000 *.

All the Europeans, who are not ſubject to the Grand Seignor, are indiſcriminately called *Franks;* and, at preſent, they conſiſt of Britiſh, French, Dutch, Neapolitans, Venetians and Raguſans, who have each a Conſul appointed to watch over the intereſts of

* The population of Smyrna has wonderfully increaſed within the laſt ſixty years. It is at preſent, by many, rated as high as 130,000.—As, however, they have no means of aſcertaining the exact number, their opinions muſt in great meaſure be founded on conjecture.—I have, on that account, avoided the extreme of calculation on this head, and am probably nearer the truth.

their

their trade.—Theſe Conſuls are very much reſpected by the Turks, are allowed Janizaries, for the defence of their perſons, and have the power of extending their protection to ſeveral individuals, who belong to the Turkiſh government.

The admirable ſituation of Smyrna, ſtanding on a centrical point between Conſtantinople, Aleppo and Salonica, and the various privileges and immunities which are granted to the Franks, have combined to diſtinguiſh it for its commercial ſpirit, and to render it one of the great marts for almoſt all the productions of the Eaſt.—The principal articles with which the Europeans ſupply it, are cochineal, indigo, ſpices, cloths, camlets, ſhalloons, fire-arms, lead and tin; and they draw from it, in return, cotton, ſilk, carpets, madder-roots, dried fruit, wax and various drugs *.—All commercial concerns,

* The commerce of this country with Turkey, has, of

concerns, between the Franks and the Turks, are conducted through the medium of the Jews and Armenians, who act as brokers,

of late years, become very extended, and is certainly an object of great political conſequence; but it can never be carried on with that advantage which it is capable of reaching, until a Lazaretto is eſtabliſhed, or the regulations reſpecting quarantine are reviſed.—At preſent the Dutch, by a very ſimple operation, are enabled to foreſtall our markets.—When the plague is in Turkey, our ſhips are obliged to go to Leghorn, Venice or Malta, and to perform at one of theſe ports a quarantine of ſix weeks, which, with the time employed in landing and reſhipping the goods, generally occaſions a detention of ſix or ſeven months; whereas, the Dutch veſſels proceed directly to Holland, where they are ſubjected to a partial ſlovenly quarantine, which is complied with, by ſhifting a few bales of goods on board lighters, which lie along ſide, for the ſpace of ten days or a fortnight.—Sometimes even this ſlight inconvenience is evaded; and, immediately on the arrival of a veſſel from Turkey, the goods are ſhipped on board another, and, by that manœuvre, eſcape quarantine altogether.—They are then expedited to England, where

brokers, and buy and ſell every article of merchandize*.

There being no carts, all kinds of goods are tranſported from one part of the city to another,

where they arrive ſeveral months before thoſe belonging to our own trade, and of courſe reap all the benefit which ariſes from an early ſupply of our market.—Thus we incur all the riſk which can proceed from the contagious nature of the plague, and, at the ſame time, our merchants are deprived of thoſe advantages which they certainly are entitled to, in preference to any others.—I am happy to hear that the building of a Lazaretto is at preſent under the contemplation of our government.—If this branch of the commercial intereſts of the country is conſulted, it will be ſoon carried into effect.

* The duties on the different commodities which arrive at Smyrna from foreign parts, are not under any general regulation; ſome nations being much more favoured than others. Nor are the cuſtom-houſe laws very ſtrict in any reſpect.—When ſmuggled goods are ſeized, they are not confiſcated; but are only liable to pay the double of the duties, or ſome ſuch moderate fine: a method which would not at all anſwer with us.

another, on men's ſhoulders.—The porters are conſequently very numerous, and, although their profeſſion is conſidered as degrading, it is ſo lucrative, that there are always a greater number of candidates than the public ſervice requires.—They are appointed by the government; and to accommodate matters among them, a certain number is every year obliged to go out, by rotation, to make room for others.—Theſe men, from their continual habits of exertion, are endowed with aſtoniſhing muſcular ſtrength.—The burden they carry is placed on a frame, which is faſtened acroſs their ſhoulders, and hangs a conſiderable way down their backs; ſo that they walk in a bended poſition with their hands reſting on their knees, which, to our London porters, would be a very fatiguing one. Moſt of them not only can ſupport, but carry, for ſome diſtance, a bale of carpets, which generally weighs between 6 and 700 pounds.

When

When a man fails in trade, in Turkey, he is not cited to appear before any tribunal to have his affairs inveſtigated and ſettled, nor is any certificate from his creditors requiſite, to liberate him from their future claims.—If he be an honeſt man, all he has to do, is to ſurrender his effects, and a diviſion of them is made among his creditors, according to the amount of their reſpective debts; which ceremony being gone through, he is no longer liable for what remains unliquidated.—This method of proceeding gives, however, a great encouragement to thoſe deceptions which the operation even of our ſeverer laws cannot altogether prevent; and it does not unfrequently happen, that a raſcal pretends he can no longer carry on his buſineſs, whilſt his circumſtances are ſtill flouriſhing. But concealing the greateſt part of his effects, or confiding them to the care of a friend, a fictitious dividend is made, and, in the courſe

courſe of a few months, he reſumes his property.

The ſtreets of Smyrna are narrow, dirty, inconvenient and badly paved.—The architecture of the houſes is ſlovenly and uncouth, and the principal material of which they are built is wood; ſo that the effects of fire are generally dreadful.—But the Turks are ſuch confirmed enemies to all improvements, that no perſuaſion can remove their prejudices, or ſurmount their ignorance.—In the year 1778, when almoſt the whole city was reduced to aſhes, by a violent conflagration; the Franks, who were ſettled there, offered to rebuild it, on a handſome and extenſive plan, which was drawn out, and ſubmitted to the Turks for their approbation.—They took ſome little time to conſider on the merits of the propoſal; but, as they could not conceive how the al-

teration would promote their intereſts, they at length reſolved to reject it.

Some of the houſes, however, belonging to the Franks, who all reſide in a ſtreet which runs along the harbour, are regularly and ſubſtantially built, and the bazar * is extenſive, and well ſupplied.—The harbour is capacious and ſecure. The anchorage is good, and the water ſo deep, that veſſels can approach within a few yards of the wharf.

The internal government of the city is managed by a Sardar who commands the Janizaries, and a Cadi who adminiſters juſtice.

* In Turkey the ſhops are not diſperſed through the different ſtreets of a town, as with us; but are collected together in places which are called bazars or bezeſtines.

Notwith-

Notwithſtanding the great antiquity * of Smyrna, it can boaſt of no monuments of former times, ſufficiently reſpectable to reward the labours and reſearches of curioſity.—Scarcely any veſtiges of thoſe magnificent temples, amphitheatres and porticos, which are ſo frequently the theme of the antient writers, are now diſcernible.—The caſtle is only remarkable for its extent, and its ſituation; and although there be no certain tradition of the exact time of its elevation, the ſtyle of its architecture affords a ſufficient proof that it is the production of a barbarous age †.—Near it, there were formerly ſome fine ruins of a theatre, which was built of beautiful marble;

* Smyrna is one of the moſt antient cities in the world, and was alſo one of the ſeven churches of Aſia, ſpoken of in the Apocalypſe.

† Tournefort in his Travels, vol. iii. p. 380, ſpeaking of this caſtle, ſays, it was built by John Ducas.—Chandler in his Travels into Aſia Minor, p. 61, ſays, that it was re-edified by John Angelus Comnenus.

but

but which the Turks have long ſince completely demoliſhed, and employed the ſtone in the erection of a bazar and a caravanſary.—Some trifling remains of a circus, and the ſkeleton of a church are ſtill apparent.—Many of the Greeks preſerve the memory of St. Polycarp, the firſt biſhop of Smyrna, and continue to venerate the ſpot where his aſhes are ſaid to repoſe:—and on the road to Sedequi (a village a few miles from the city) an aqueduct is to be ſeen, which is evidently ſome remnant of Roman taſte and ſolidity.

The once celebrated river Meles is now a contemptible brook.—In the winter time, it is not much broader than a ditch, and in the ſummer, it is perfectly dry.—On the banks of the Meles, ſtands a ſtone pillar, ſacred to the genius of the river. The occaſion of its erection was this. The country being afflicted with a peſtilence, which made

unuſual ravages, the inhabitants vowed to raiſe a monument to the honour of the tutelar divinity of the river, if he would liſten to their prayers, and extricate them from the calamities under which they groaned.—His Godſhip was propitious, and the vow was fulfilled.—At no great diſtance from this ſpot, there is a running piece of water, called Diana's bath.

On account of the plague, which had broken out a ſhort time before my arrival, and which was beginning to extend its ravages very faſt, my friends adviſed me not to expoſe myſelf unneceſſarily, by walking about the city.—Had the Coliſeum * reared its ſtately head in its very centre, however difficult and dangerous might have been the acceſs to it, all ſolicitations would probably have been urged in vain; but, as there was

* The celebrated amphitheatre at Rome, which was built by Veſpaſian.

nothing curious to examine, there was no ardour to repreſs, and I readily conſented to be governed by their admonitions.

The fatal conſequences of this melancholy diſorder have been ſeverely felt, at different periods, in different parts of the globe; but, in this unhappy country, its return is uniformly expected with the ſpring of the year; a ſeaſon which, in other regions, appears to have been deſigned by Providence, to renew the bleſſings of life, and to awaken the whole creation to the enjoyments of gaiety and health *.—Its frequent reviſitations have been attributed to various cauſes, and although much may no doubt be aſcribed to the nature of the climate, ſtill I am convinced, that if the habits of thinking, and the mode of living of the people,

* It generally begins to decline towards the middle of July, and, from that time, gradually dies away. In the fall, it frequently revives.

were to undergo a reform, it would neither be ſo rapid in its progreſs, nor ſo violent in its attacks.—They eat very little animal food, nouriſhing themſelves chiefly with herbs, rank butter, and oil, which debilitate and derange the ſtomach.—In their dreſs they are uncleanly, and change their linen very ſeldom.—They alſo make frequent uſe of the warm bath, where they remain for a great length of time, which relaxes the nerves, opens the pores of the ſkin, and keeps the body in a conſtant ſtate of perſpiration.—If, therefore, there be any thing of a pernicious quality floating in the air, they will ſurely imbibe it; whilſt it may have no effect on people of a more hardy and robuſt habit of body.—Add to all theſe reaſons the errours of opinion, and our ſurpriſe almoſt diſappears.

One of the grand tenets of Mahometaniſm, is predeſtination.—A follower of that abſurd

abſurd and miſguided ſect, firmly believes, that his deſtiny has been fixed from the commencement of the world, and that he cannot, by any effort either of prudence or exertion, inſure the ſmalleſt alteration in the moſt trifling occurrence of his life.—He regards the paſt and the future with the ſame ſtupid indifference, and is neither ſolicitous to obtain happineſs, nor to avoid deſtruction: but, he ruſhes into danger with the ſame apathy with which he ſmokes his pipe, or drinks his coffee.

One morning, when I was going to pay a viſit to our Conſul, I found a number of people aſſembled in the court yard, who begged that I would not advance any nearer, as they were preparing to remove one of the domeſtics who, the day before, had been ſeized with the plague.—Not wiſhing to run any unneceſſary riſk, this intimation was quite ſufficient, and I converſed with thoſe in the

yard at a reſpectful diſtance. Juſt as I was on the point of taking my leave, a Turk happened to be paſſing, whoſe curioſity was attracted by this unuſual concourſe. He ſtopped, and aſking the reaſon, was no ſooner informed, than he went up to the patient, and examined every ſymptom with the greateſt coolneſs and attention. When he had done, he ſaid, that it was a very favourable caſe, and that, in all probability, he would recover in a few days. Notwithſtanding this prediction, the poor fellow died the following morning.—What became of the Turk, I could never learn, but it is moſt likely, that he met with the ſame fate.

Thus it appears, that this diſorder may be contracted by their manner of living, and extended by their manner of thinking.

It is regarded, by the Faculty, as a fever of a moſt malignant nature.—The firſt

ſymptoms

ſymptoms which are in general manifeſted are frequent retchings, attended with a violent head-ach.—As the infection ſpreads, fever, pains at the heart, difficulty of reſpiration, anxiety of mind, and total debility, are uſual concomitants.—Shortly after, livid blotches and tumours break out in different parts of the body, particularly under the arms, in the glands of the neck, and on the thighs; and in the courſe of forty-eight hours, or three days, the patient is generally carried off by a coagulation of the blood, occaſioned by its corrupted ſtate *.—If he eſcape beyond that period, hopes of his recovery may be entertained.

No infallible remedy, to allay the inveteracy, or to arreſt the progreſs of this cruel ſcourge, has hitherto been diſcovered; and,

* The exhalations from dead bodies are not infectious.

as if it were inflicted to chaſtiſe the unwarrantable folly and confidence of man, applications which one year have been reſorted to with ſucceſs, have totally failed the next. —This ſpring, at the recommendation of Mr. B——, a gentleman who was formerly the Britiſh Conſul at Aleppo, ſeveral patients have derived great benefit and relief, from being ſteeped in oil, or rubbed with it, at ſhort intervals *.

* Thoſe who attend the Greek hoſpitals have generally had what, on account of its extreme virulence, is called the *Mother Plague*. The few who recover, after having been infected with this exceſs of the diſeaſe, are ſeldom liable to it a ſecond time.—There are, however, now and then, inſtances to the contrary.

Some few years back, two Ruſſian Doctors were ſent to Smyrna, by the Empreſs, to make their obſervations on the nature and effects of the Plague.—They were ſo confident of their ſkill, that, when they viſited the hoſpital, in ſpite of the remonſtrances of their friends, they diſdained to take any precautions againſt infection.—The conſequence was, they both caught the diſorder, and died of it in the courſe of a few days.

But

But what principally induces me to believe, that this malady is rather to be imputed to the habits and opinions of the people, than to the effects of the climate, is a review of this country in antient times.

The famous plague of Athens, which broke out in the ſecond year of the Peloponneſian war, was, in many reſpects, exactly ſimilar in its nature and its conſequences; but was then regarded as ſo remarkable a diſeaſe, that every ſtage and ſymptom are depicted by Thucydides * with the moſt minute accuracy.—We are not to ſuppoſe, that the climate has, ſince thoſe days, undergone any material alteration; for, at the ſame diſtance from the equator, the operations of the ſun, on a cultivated country, muſt, in all ages, be nearly alike. But when an epidemic ſickneſs, in the higheſt degree contagious, has

* See Thycydides, Lib. 2.

once

once been engrafted, and the people, inſtead of ſtriving to counteract and eradicate, adopt every method which can ſtrengthen and mature it, we are not to be aſtoniſhed if its conſequences be violent.—The Turks even make no ſcruple of wearing thoſe clothes which the deceaſed had on at the time of his death.

Owing to the precautions which the Franks take againſt this diſorder, they are rarely affected by it, which is an additional proof, that, with proper care and attention, what depends on the climate may be eſcaped. —From the moment it evidences itſelf, they are very particular, reſpecting whom they admit into their houſes, and are at great pains to avoid touching even the clothes of a ſtranger in the ſtreets. As its conſequences begin to be more ſeverely felt, they ſhut themſelves up in their houſes, and all communication between different families

lies gradually ceaſes.—As long as it continues to rage, no perſon is permitted to enter their dwelling, or to go out.—Whilſt this impriſonment laſts, a man calls every morning to know what proviſions the family requires, which he purchaſes at the market, and, on his return, lets them fall into a pail of water, placed within the outer gate, for the purpoſe of receiving them. There they remain ſoaking a ſufficient time, to purify them from all poſſible infection.—Every paper which is taken in, is firſt carefully fumigated, and even money is waſhed in vinegar, before it is handled.

Several pleaſant villages* ſurround Smyrna, at the diſtance of from ſix to twelve miles, where the Franks have their country

* The villages moſt reſorted to by the Franks, are Sedequi, Bournabat and Bugia.—Bournabat is the largeſt, but Sedequi poſſeſſes the moſt agreeable ſituation.

ſeats,

ſeats, and principally reſide during the ſummer months.

At Bournabat, which I viſit very often, there is an excellent inn, kept by a Venetian, and a billiard room belonging to it, which is much frequented.—I generally go to this village half way by water, and, on getting out of the boat, mount an aſs, which conducts me to Mr. P——'s door. Theſe animals are rather inconvenient, and are ſometimes difficult to manage, in the firſt place from their innate ſtubbornneſs, and in the next, from the breadth of the Turkiſh ſaddles, and the ſhortneſs of the ſtirrups, which are nearly of the ſame ſize and ſhape as an Engliſh fire-ſhovel.—The Turks never wear ſpurs, but, when they want to go faſter, goad the beaſt that carries them with one of the angles of theſe miſhapen inſtruments.

The

The climate is remarkably fine.—In the winter indeed, rain and even ſnow are not uncommon; but during the ſpring and ſummer, the ſky is ſo clear and ſerene that a cloud is an uncommon ſight.

The face of the country is romantic and beautiful, conſiſting chiefly of high mountains *, deep vallies, and extenſive plains, which form an intereſting and agreeable contraſt.—Nothing can be more animated and gay than the appearance of the country in the ſpring; but as the ſummer advances, the vertical rays of the ſun burn up the paſturages, and completely deſtroy all their verdure.—The ſoil is luxuriant,

* Some of the mountains are, towards the ſummit, quite barren, and even deſtitute of all verdure. In the winter they are frequently covered with ſnow, which the mountaineers, by digging caverns for it, preſerve during the ſummer months.

and

and olives, melons, oranges, figs, and vines * are cultivated with little trouble; whilſt myrtle, eglantine, jeſſamy, and various aromatic herbs, ſpring up ſpontaneouſly, and perfume the air †.—It is, however, an obſervation which generally holds good, that in climes where Nature has been leſs bountiful, the invention and ingenuity of the human mind will more than reſtore the level.—In warm countries, the ſame ſun which renders the earth

* The figs are very much eſteemed, both for their ſize and flavour. Theſe and the raiſins form a conſiderable branch of commerce.—The Engliſh are only allowed to import one cargo of fruit annually, which is ſuppoſed to be for the King's table. This law, however, they eaſily evade.—Beſides the fruits I have already enumerated, apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, and various kinds of nuts, are plentiful.

† Notwithſtanding the clumſy and inattentive modes of agriculture adopted by the farmers, the land produces very good grain, and ſeveral cargoes are annually exported from Smyrna.

prolific,

prolific, and calls forth its fruits, ſo enervates the inhabitants, and paralyſes bodily exertion, that they ſeldom are endowed with a ſufficient degree of activity, to enable them to avail themſelves of their natural ſuperiority: whereas, under a more temperate zone, agriculture and botany, engroſſing the attention and ſkill of mankind, generally attain to a high degree of perfection; and thus, the defects of Nature are remedied and ſupplied by the ingenuity and perſeverance of Art.

There is ſuch an abundance of game,* and ſo little danger of its ever being exter-

* Partridges, quails, wood-cocks, ſnipes, wild ducks, teals, thruſhes, larks, beccafigs, hares and rabbits are very plentiful.—The beccafig is a delicious little bird, and reckoned by many equal, in flavour, to the ortolan.—Wild boars are alſo to be met with on the mountains. Theſe the mountaineers hunt; but in conſequence of the danger attendant on the chaſe, their fleſh ſells very high.

minated,

minated, that there is no neceſſity for laws, to ſecure the pleaſures of the ſportſman to the rich.—I could wiſh, that this were the caſe in England, or at leaſt that that part of our penal code which relates to game, were reviſed, and ſo modified and explained, as to remove thoſe ſtrong and palpable objections, which the bare peruſal of them at preſent creates.—The cattle is ſmall * ; but the horſes are ſtrong, ſwift-footed, and full of ſpirit.—This I can ſpeak to, for the very firſt time I mounted one, although he was advanced in years, he ran away with me for ſeveral miles †.

* They breed very few cows near Smyrna, and the milk which the Franks chiefly uſe with their coffee and tea, is that of ſheep or goats.—The ſheep are remarkable for their fat, buſhy tails, which ſometimes weigh upwards of three pounds.

† The Turks, to have a better command over their horſes, ride them with a particular kind of bit.—They give them very few oats, and nouriſh them chiefly with chopped ſtraw.

In

In the inland country, there are ſeveral copper mines which yield a very pure ore. The exportation of this metal is prohibited. —The miners, neverthelefs, contrive to ſmuggle it on board the veſſels in the harbour, during the night; and ſome of it has, at times, found its way into England, and on account of its cheapneſs, created ſome alarm among the proprietors of our mines in Cornwall.

I lament very much that the plague has obliged me to relinquiſh the plan of viſiting Epheſus, where the remains of that celebrated temple * are to be ſeen, which was ſo much the admiration of mankind, that it was reckoned by the Antients among the wonders of the world.

Yours, &c.

* This magnificent temple was twice built.—The firſt was the one which was fired by Eroſtratus, on the

night of the birth of Alexander. The ſecond ſtill exiſted in the times of Strabo and Pliny, and is frequently mentioned by thoſe two authors.—The remains of it, I am informed, are very trifling.

LET-

LETTER XII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 4, 1792.

AFTER changing our opinions about a dozen times, reſpecting the moſt eligible method of conveyance to Conſtantinople, we at laſt reſolved to go by land. —Fully apprized of the numerous hardſhips and inconveniences, which muſt neceſſarily attend a long journey through a barbarous country, yet, great as they were, we choſe rather to encounter them, than to ſubmit to the groſs impoſition of a Neapolitan Captain *, (whoſe veſſel was the only one

* This fellow had heard, that we were determined to go to Conſtantinople by water, and as we were

one bound for Conſtantinople,) and to run the riſk of being confined ſeveral days in a filthy cabin.

Having made every requiſite preparation, we left Smyrna on the 25th of April.

Notwithſtanding ſuch weighty motives as a plague, whoſe devaſtations were increaſing daily, and (what I dreaded fully as much) the approaching heat *, haſtened my departure, I can aſſure you it was taken with regret.—But to be obliged to quit a place, in

Engliſhmen, he thought he might exact from us any ſum of money he choſe to mention. His avarice, however, loſt him the fair price of our paſſage.

* The heat at Smyrna, from the middle of June till the latter end of September, is dreadful. The thermometer frequently riſes in the day-time as high as 104.—A refreſhing ſea-breeze, called the inbat, ſometimes ſprings up towards the evening; but when the wind blows from the north, it is almoſt inſupportable. The ſlighteſt motion is then a toil.—This wind paſſes over vaſt tracts of ſand, which are eaſily penetrated by the

in which one is juſt beginning to form agreeable connections, is a mortification to which travellers muſt be frequently expoſed and indeed, is one of the great drawbacks on the pleaſures of a deſultory life.

The ſociety of Smyrna is on a moſt friendly footing, and, although compoſed of individuals from almoſt every part of Europe, that jealouſy of character, which rivalſhip too generally inſpires, is not to be diſcovered. In commercial tranſactions, it

the rays of the ſun, and rendered as hot as a furnace.—When it comes, the inhabitants, to keep their houſes as cool as poſſible, are obliged to ſhut all their windows; for it is of ſuch a parching, ſuffocating nature, that I have heard it compared to a current of flame.—To avoid the moſt oppreſſive part of the day, it is cuſtomary to lie down on ſofas after dinner, and paſs an hour or two in ſleep.—In addition to the plague and theſe exceſſive heats, they are ſubject to frequent earthquakes. That which happened in the year 1688 overthrew a great part of the city.

may perhaps exiſt; but they have too much good ſenſe to allow it to interrupt or diminiſh the pleaſures of ſocial intercourſe.—They have frequent entertainments at each other's houſes *, and there is a place of general reſort for Gentlemen, called the Caſino, which is open every evening, where a few hours may be always agreeably paſſed away. It conſiſts of ſeveral rooms, one of which is allotted for cards, and another for politics, which is well provided with newſpapers from different parts of the globe. Coffee and lemonade are, from time to time, handed round, and every thing is conducted with the greateſt propriety.—This eſtabliſhment

* Proviſions at Smyrna are plentiful and cheap. It is tolerably well ſupplied with butcher's meat; and fiſh, poultry, game and vegetables are in great abundance.—The fiſhery in the bay is very conſiderable. It not only keeps the city well ſupplied; but enables the inhabitants to ſalt down a great deal for exportation. Oyſters, in the ſeaſon, are brought from Conſtantinople.

is ſupported by ſubſcription, and ſtrangers, when introduced by any member, are complimented with a free admiſſion.—But to return from this digreſſion.

As the mode of travelling in this country, is totally different from that, which is adopted in Europe, a conciſe deſcription of it may not prove unentertaining.

If it were poſſible to procure carriages, the badneſs and narrowneſs of the roads would render them uſeleſs. We therefore had no alternative (unleſs we preferred walking) but to mount worn-out ſteeds, and perform our journey on horſeback.—Mr. R——, an Engliſh gentleman, and an old ſchoolfellow, accompanied us, and Mr. P—— was kind enough to ſend with us one of his brokers, who, ſpeaking Italian, ſerved as our interpreter.—We had alſo, for our ſecurity, a Janizary and two other men, who,

with two drivers, and three horſes for our baggage, formed a very reſpectable cavalcade.—We took our beds and a caſe of proviſions with us, with knives and forks and various culinary utenſils; and, as we had no inclination to take ſhelter in any of the miſerable coffee-houſes on the road, which are nothing but ſheds ſupported by four ſtakes, we likewiſe purchaſed a tent.—Theſe precautions may appear to you (who have been accuſtomed all your life to the admirable conveniences of England) extraordinary; but in this quarter of the globe, they are abſolutely neceſſary, and by the omiſſion of either, we ſhould have been expoſed to the riſk of a violent cold, the plague, or famine.

As the ſame horſes were to carry us as far as Maarlich, (horſes too, which, from their appearance, had never known the flavour of oats) it was neceſſary to go a foot's pace the whole way: and, ſetting off rather

ther late, we did not make much progreſs the firſt day.

About ſix o'clock in the evening, we pitched our tent near a village called Yakai, where, to our aſtoniſhment, we heard there had been no plague.—Though an inconſiderable place, its ſituation, which is beautifully romantic, renders it worthy of notice. It ſtands on a gentle eminence, and on the right, at the diſtance of about half a mile, there is an enchanting wood, which is interſected and refreſhed by ſeveral limpid rivulets, whoſe placid murmurs did not ill accord with the melodious notes of the nightingale, which, in this captivating retreat, chaunted unmoleſted her evening ſong. On the banks of one of theſe rivulets, liſtening to ſuch ſweetly melancholy ſounds, I would fain have remained till midnight, for the moon ſhone with all her ſplendour, and the evening was beautifully ſerene; but as

we

we purpoſed riſing early in the morning, that we might the better endure the fatigues of the next day's journey, we ſoon returned to our tent, arranged our beds, and, without undreſſing ourſelves, lay down about eight o'clock.—We might, however, as well have loitered in the wood, for we were ſo tormented with fleas, and ſo frequently diſturbed with the neighing of our own horſes, and the barking of the village dogs, that, in ſpite of our preparations, all attempts to ſleep were vain.

From prudential motives, we did not admit the Janizary or any of our attendants, except M—— (the broker whom Mr. P—— had ſent with us) within our tent. They, poor fellows! repoſed near us, on the outſide.—They did not, however, neglect themſelves; for during our abſence in the wood, they kindled a briſk fire, round which they ſat, and, whilſt they were ſmoking their pipes,

pipes, and drinking their coffee, chatted over the adventures of the day.—The fumes of the wood, which diſcouraged me from enlarging their circle, they paid no regard to, and it was not till towards midnight, that they were tired of converſation, and felt themſelves inclined to ſleep. They then muffled up their heads, ſpread a ſubſtantial bear-ſkin under them, and lay down.

We roſe about three in the morning, and as ſoon as we had refreſhed ourſelves with a diſh of coffee, recommenced our journey: a plan which proved very convenient, and which we ſteadily adhered to in the ſequel.

We found the road * over Mount Sipylus dreadfully bad, and, in many places, ſo intolerably

* On the roads in Turkey, one here and there meets with a few yards of pavement, which has been made at the deſire of ſome Turk, who, becauſe he has frequented

intolerably rugged and ſteep, that it was with difficulty our horſes kept their feet.—This inconvenience was, however, in great meaſure compenſated by the elegance and romantic wildneſs of the views, which were continually engaging our attention.—At the foot of this mountain, on a beautiful and extenſive plain, which is watered by the river Hermus, ſtands Magneſia*, which we paſſed through about mid-day.—It was

ſrequented it, or for ſome other reaſon, has, at his death, left a ſum of money for that ſpecific purpoſe.—When, however, his wiſh has once been complied with, his heirs give themſelves no farther concern about it. Theſe patches of pavement are never repaired, ſo that in the courſe of a few years they are quite broken up, and, inſtead of being a ſervice, are a detriment to the roads.

* The walls of this city are ſtill ſtanding, and, on an eminence to the ſouth, are the ruins of a caſtle. I am told, that in this town, there is an hoſpital for lunatics, which is the only inſtitution of the kind in the empire.—The inhabitants are chiefly ſupported by the manufacture of cotton yarn.

once

once the reſidence of the Grand Seignor *, and the ſeat of his empire; and although it has dwindled from its former magnificence and importance, is ſtill a large, populous and flouriſhing city.—In antient hiſtory, it is famous for being the ſpot near which Ageſilaus and Tiſſaphernes, with their numerous armies, contended for the ſovereignty of Aſia, and where Antiochus the Great, after an obſtinate and bloody battle, was defeated by the Romans.—It is, indeed, ſurrounded with claſſic ground, which has been celebrated by the poet as well as the hiſtorian.

We ſtopped, about one o'clock, in a field, to dine, and when we were ready to remount our horſes, one of the drivers, who was an obſtreperous fellow, refuſed to proceed. He ſaid, that he had no idea of loading and unloading two or three times a day, and we

* Amurat II. and ſeveral of his ſucceſſors reſided in this city.

were

were obliged to threaten him with chaſtiſement, before we could bring him to reaſon. This point being ſettled, we reſumed our journey, and rode, for ſeveral hours, through a barren uncultivated country.—When we were inclined to pitch our tent, we ſearched in vain for an eligible ſituation. At length night overtook us, which made us mend our pace a little, and we proceeded till we came to a village called Palamout. We here applied for aſſiſtance, but finding the inhabitants unwilling to grant any, we returned to a field, which we had noticed about a hundred yards from the entrance of this inhoſpitable place.—In many parts, it was an abſolute marſh, and thouſands of frogs, that were croaking their diſcordant notes, aſſailed our ears. The noiſe which they made was dreadful, and I was wiſhing for an army of Frenchmen to demoliſh theſe execrable muſicians.—On this comfortleſs ſpot, expoſed to the dampneſs of the ground, and more-

over

over to a piercing north wind, we were obliged to wait, above two hours, for the arrival of our baggage, from which we had imprudently ſeparated.

On the 27th in the morning, we had a fine view of Kircagatch *; but on account of

* The following note is extracted from a letter, which I received from my brother (who was then in Turkey) a few months before I left England.

"In every town, and even in every village in Turkey, an officer, called an Aga, is appointed. In places of conſequence, they live like petty Princes. They levy ſoldiers, maintain a conſiderable guard, adminiſter juſtice in their diſtrict, and even aſſume the prerogative of puniſhing with death.—At Kircagatch, there is at preſent a very powerful Aga, called Carra Oſman Oglou. He is ſo immenſely rich, that he can, if reduced to the neceſſity, raiſe an army of 20,000 men. He is, at the ſame time, very popular in the neighbourhood, and even at Smyrna, where he was formerly Governor, and where the people paſſionately deſire to have him again at their head.—But in this country the

of the plague, which was raging there with great violence, we declined paſſing through it. It is delightfully ſituated on the declivity of a hill, and covers a great extent of ground. Before it, there is a noble plain, and the ſurrounding lands are in a high ſtate of cultivation. They furniſh indeed the principal part

inclinations of the people are never conſulted, and the Government does not ſeem diſpoſed to confer this honour on him a ſecond time.—He has frequently received orders to join the army, and, to entice him from Kircagatch, he has been offered the dignity of Pacha, which he has prudently declined; for were he once to put himſelf in the power of his enemies, his head would be immediately taken off, and his effects confiſcated; ſo jealous is the Porte of his authority and influence, and ſo deſirous of poſſeſſing his wealth.—His father, who held the ſame employment, was entrapped by theſe artifices, which has taught a leſſon of caution to the ſon. Thus he has never obeyed the ſummons; but has hitherto contrived to evade it, by ſacrificing conſiderable ſums of money, and ſending a body of troops in his ſtead—His income ariſes from the cotton

part of the cotton *, which is exported from Smyrna. They alſo produce a conſiderable quantity of grain, and the neighbouring paſturages afford nouriſhment to numerous flocks

cotton grounds about Kircagatch, of which he is almoſt the ſole proprietor. He maintains ſuch ſtrict order within his diſtrict, that a robbery is ſcarcely ever heard of.—When, however, any offence of this nature is committed, he orders the ſufferer into his preſence, and on being acquainted with the loſs which he has ſuſtained, pays it out of his treaſury. He then diſpatches his officers after the offender, and they are ſo expert and active, that he ſeldom eſcapes.—In conſequence of theſe wholeſome, ſevere, and munificent regulations, ſuch a reliance is placed in his wiſdom and juſtice, that thouſands of dollars are conveyed from place to place, on the backs of mules, attended only by one man, almoſt without riſk."

This Aga is ſince dead, and his ſon has made his peace, for the preſent, with the Porte, by ſending to Conſtantinople an immenſe ſum of money.

* Cotton has within the laſt twenty years been very much cultivated, and is now an article of ſuch exten-

flocks of ſheep.—Scarcely any oxen are to be ſeen; and the buffalo, an animal unknown with us, and one of the moſt hideous productions of nature, is trained to the yoke,

ſive commerce, that it is one of the principal ſources of the riches of the country. Beſides Kircagatch, it is grown near ſeveral places within a few days journey of Smyrna, viz. Caſſaba, Kinich, Byandire and Subugia. The Kircagatch and the Caſſaba are the only two which are imported by our merchants. The Subugia is the fineſt in quality, but is produced in very ſmall quantities.—The cotton is an annual plant. The ſeed is ſown in ploughed lands, and, when ripe, is cut down like our corn. It is low and ſlender, like a reed, and at the extremity throws out a bud which, by degrees, ſwells to the ſize of a walnut. In this huſk are contained both the cotton and the ſeed, which obliges the proprietors, before it is brought to market, to make uſe of a machine, to ſeparate the one from the other, which is formed on the following conſtruction. It is made in the ſhape of a barrel, with ſides of thin iron or wooden bars, placed almoſt cloſe together. In the centre there is a large roller, which preſſes the cotton

yoke, and ſupplies their place.—Kircagatch but a few years ago was an inſignificant village: the rapid increaſe of its trade has raiſed it to its preſent importance *.

Neceſſity obliged us this evening to pitch our tent on the confines of a dreary wood, which we were very glad to leave in the morning, as we had heard that it was infeſted with robbers.

On the 28th, a little after ſun-riſe, we met a Turk, who was travelling with his wife and a few attendants. The Lady,

cotton againſt the bars, and forces it through the openings, which are not ſufficiently wide to admit the paſſage of the ſeed. Some of theſe machines are ſo large, that they are worked by horſes or oxen.

* I cannot find Kircagatch laid down in any map whatever, nor is it mentioned in any geographical book which has fallen into my hands.—It is an omiſſion, which ought certainly to be attended to.

who was ſeated in a kind of box, faſtened to the back of her horſe, was unveiled, which was rather ſingular, as the women, even of the pooreſt Turks, are generally obliged to conceal their faces from the intruſive eyes of ſtrangers.—They appeared to be very much ſurpriſed at ſeeing us, and the Turk, I thought, betrayed evident marks of diſſatisfaction and jealouſy at the notice we took of his wife.—I was not, however, to be diſcouraged by his countenance from looking at a pretty woman.

After this adventure, we proceeded till we came to a village called Geulgouck, where, for the firſt time, we ventured into a Turkiſh coffee-houſe, and had the good fortune to find ſome excellent kimac *, a preparation

* Yahout and pilow are alſo two favourite diſhes in Turkey. The firſt is milk turned with runnet. It is very

preparation of cream which is very much reliſhed in this country, and a good deal reſembles the clotted cream of Devonſhire.

Though theſe places are dignified with the name of coffee-houſes, they are, in general, nothing more than miſerable huts, intended to afford a temporary refuge to the weary traveller. They have a roof compoſed of twigs and mud; but are open in front, and are ſo ſcanty of proviſions, that very frequently they afford not a mouthful of bread to allay the cravings of an empty ſtomach.—I could not help remarking the low cunning of a Turk, whom curioſity, or probably ſome leſs laudable motive, had induced to ſeat himſelf near us.—Whilſt we were eating our kimac, he ſtretched out his hand over our ſugar, and, in returning it,

very ſour to the taſte, but the Turks prefer it without ſugar.—The ſecond is made of rice, and is a diſh which is common in moſt Eaſtern countries.

ſlyly took a lump, which he ſlipped into his pocket. He thought he was not obſerved, and I make no doubt applauded his addreſs.

The houſes of the Turkiſh villages have a wretched appearance, which you may eaſily imagine, when I tell you, that the chief materials of which they are built, are mud and twigs. The roofs are flat, and there is never more than a ground floor, which is not always divided into ſeparate apartments. —The country about Geulgouck is mountainous and barren, and the roads are infamouſly bad.

We paſſed this night in a field, a few hundred paces from Mendahura, a village which is remarkable for the number of ſtorks *, which build their neſts

* The Turks believe that theſe birds make an annual pilgrimage to their Prophet's tomb at Medina.

on

on the tops of the houſes. In other places, I had obſerved a neſt here and there; but in this, there was ſcarcely a houſe without one: ſo that it abſolutely ſeemed as if they formed a neceſſary part of the roof.—The tameneſs of theſe birds is to be principally attributed to the veneration in which they are holden by the Turks, who, in a manner, regard them as their tutelar deities; vainly imagining, that thoſe houſes, on which they conſtruct their neſts, will be exempted, for the year, from the ravages of the plague and fire. They conſequently never allow any of them to be deſtroyed, and they are indeed, in general, very humane in the treatment of their domeſtic animals.—Round one of the neſts, I noticed an aſſemblage of between twenty and thirty hawks, which were watching a ſtork very narrowly. I had not time to diſcover their motive; but, as ſhe was covering her neſt, I conjectured that ſhe was hatching her eggs,

and that theſe voracious animals were waiting for an opportunity of carrying off the young ones.

On the morning of the 29th, we paſſed through a rich and beautiful valley, which terminated in a ſmall wood where, like Arcadian ſhepherds, we made an excellent repaſt, under the ſhade of one of the largeſt trees.—Leaving this wood, we had not proceeded far before we met the Courier *, who generally performs the journey, between

* The poſt in Turkey is not under the controul and patronage of the Government, but is an eſtabliſhment agreed on by the different foreigners reſiding there, who, according to the extent of their concerns, contribute their quota.—When a Courier makes any extraordinary expedition, in addition to his regular pay, he is rewarded with a ſum of money. One poor fellow, a few years back, ſtimulated by the hopes of this reward, made, in the month of July ſuch an effort, that he reached Smyrna in three days and a half. On his arval he received a preſent of forty dollars, and died a few hours after of fatigue.

Smyrna and Conſtantinople, in five days. He was hardly out of ſight, when we paſſed ſome attendants belonging to a Pacha, who was encamped before a village at a ſmall diſtance off, and was threatening immediate commencement of hoſtilities, unleſs its miſerable inhabitants conſented to ſupply him, without delay, with a few purſes of money *. But they had the ſpirit, peremptorily to refuſe a compliance with ſuch an unjuſtifiable command, and nobly returned him for anſwer, that they were reſolved to defend their property with their lives.—If my good wiſhes could bring them ſucceſs, it ſhould moſt certainly be inſured to them; for I cannot help curſing that avarice which extorts from the needy, and perſecutes the weak, becauſe they are unprovided with the means of reſiſtance.

* A purſe is 100 ſequins: A ſequin is five dollars, and a dollar is two ſhillings ſterling.

In

In this part of the country, there is a great abundance of game.

Before we reached Maarlich, we traverſed a large plain, on which we perceived, at a diſtance, nine columns. On enquiry, we found that they had been erected at the expence of an individual, and were intended to ſupport an aqueduct, which was to convey water to the city. Unfortunately he died before the work was completed, and its preſent decayed ſtate is ſuffered to exhibit a ſhameful memorial of the lack of liberality and public ſpirit. We were, however, deſirous of approaching, and examining them more minutely.—Thus ſtimulated by our curioſity, we paid very little attention to our horſes, which were dreadfully jaded; but, ſpurring them over ploughed fields and ditches, at length arrived at the foot of one them. We calculated that it was about ſixty feet high. It was ſolidly built of flint,

tile

tile and ſtone; and a winding ſtaircaſe within, conducted to the top, whence there was an extenſive proſpect.

About mid-day we alighted at Maarlich, nearly as much fatigued as our horſes, and very well pleaſed at having accompliſhed the firſt diviſion of our journey.

I ſhall write you again to-morrow, and give you an account of the remainder.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 5, 1792.

MAARLICH is a conſiderable city, and we found the bazar well ſupplied with a variety of merchandize; but what ſurpriſed me moſt, was the aſtoniſhing number of blackſmiths, whoſe ſhops form one of the principal ſtreets, and called to my recollection Virgil's deſcription of the reſidence of Vulcan *.

The inhabitants of this place are very

* The ſhoe of the Turkiſh horſes is unlike that worn by ours.—It is a round broad rim of iron, without any break in it.

much

much diſtreſſed for water, which they are obliged to fetch from a great diſtance, there being no ſprings in the town, and the river, which flows near it, is ſo muddy that it is unfit for uſe.

Having previouſly ſatisfied ourſelves concerning the plague, we ventured into a houſe, and employed a part of our time in allaying our hunger, and recruiting our ſtrength, with an excellent bowl of kimac.

According to agreement, we quitted our horſes here, and without any regret, for they were quite overcome with their exertions.—We, however, had ſome difficulty in procuring others, and ſeveral hours elapſed, before we could come to an arrangement about the price.

I had long been anticipating the pleaſure of vaulting on a freſh and vigorous ſteed; but

but expectation frequently leads to diſappointment, and when I firſt ſaw the animal which was allotted to me, I verily concluded, that I ſhould have a conſiderable portion of the remainder of my journey to perform on foot. It was ſo wonderfully ugly, that even the Roſinante of Don Quixote would have gained by the compariſon.—My beaſt, moreover, poſſeſſed a quality in which the courſer of that renowned Knight was fortunately deficient; for at times, particularly in the morning, he was ſo offenſive to the noſe, that no body would ride near him *.

Shortly after leaving Maarlich, a caſtle preſented itſelf, which, when in repair,

* Several of our horſes had a diſorder, which I never obſerved in England. In many parts of their bodies, the blood, in narrow ſtreaks, had burſt through the ſkin. It disfigured them very much, but did not ſeem to occaſion either pain or inconvenience.

muſt

muſt have been reſpectable on account of its ſtrength; and, a little farther on, there is a large vault, the architecture of which diſplays ſome rude taſte. A wide ſtone chimney is erected at each end, and carried through the roof; but for what purpoſe they have been deſigned, I am at a loſs to determine.

This day was memorable for the diſcontinuation of the cold northerly wind, which had perſecuted us, without intermiſſion, ever ſince our departure from Smyrna. Contraſted with the ſcorching heat of the ſun, it had produced dreadful effects on our faces, having bliſtered them terribly, and ſwelled our noſes to an immoderate ſize. But we ſuffered moſt from it at night; for, in ſpite of all our precautions, it penetrated our tent, and made us ſhiver for hours after we were in bed.

The Janizary and our other attendants uſed regularly, every morning, to diſcharge their fire arms; and, when they were chilled by the keenneſs of the air, in order to warm themſelves by aſſiſting the circulation of the blood, they would ſhout for ſeveral minutes together.—This method of expelling the cold, made us laugh at firſt; but we afterwards practiſed it, and found it of ſome ſervice.

The favourable alteration in the weather enabled us to examine, and to enjoy the beauties of a lake near whoſe banks we rode. —It was adorned with numberleſs iſlands, which were clothed with wood, and enamelled with the loveliеſt verdure; and the country, for ſeveral miles round, exhibited one of the moſt elegant natural gardens I ever beheld. On the north ſide, Mount Olympus majeſtically terminated this enchanting view.

As

As the road approaches Bruſa, it borders on a luxuriant plain, at the neareſt extremity of which, there is a large coppice, that furniſhes a delightful retreat to thouſands of nightingales, which, as if to regale the wearied traveller, chant their melodious notes the whole day long.

We went a few miles out of our way to ſee the baths of Chechirgi.—They were built by the Genoeſe, when this part of the country was in their poſſeſſion, and are eſteemed the moſt magnificent in the Turkiſh dominions.—The principal one conſiſts of a large hall, with a ceiling formed into three domes, through which the light is admitted.—It is entirely paved with marble, and, in the centre, an elegant marble fountain is erected, which, through ſeveral pipes, pours into a large baſon its pellucid and refreſhing waters. Along the walls on each ſide, there is a range of ſeats covered

with mattreſſes, where we found ſome ſmoking, or drinking coffee and ſherbet, and others repoſing themſelves, after bathing. To the right of this hall, are two paſſages, one of which leads to the hot, and the other to the cold bath.—Before we arrived at the hot bath, we paſſed through ſeveral rooms of atmoſpheres progreſſively warmer, which obviate the inconvenience of a too ſudden change of air.—The heat of the water, which is very great, is not artificial, but as it flows from the earth *.—The baths and apartments for the women, are on the other ſide of the hall.

Beſides theſe baths, the only thing which merits attention at Chechirgi, is the principal moſque, which is a ſtately building.

* The water is conducted through the walls into the baths by ſeveral pipes.—From the copperas which adheres to the places whence it ſprings, it is ſuppoſed to paſs through extenſive mines of vitriol.

We found the people of this place very impertinent and curious. The moment we alighted from our horſes, a number of them ſurrounded us, and, without aſking our permiſſion, one took a cutlaſs, another a piſtol, a third got hold of a ſaddle, and did not quit them till they had minutely examined every part.

Whilſt we were here, we had an opportunity of putting the delicacy of our Janizary to the teſt.—Out of our ſtock of proviſions, we had ſtill remaining an excellent piece of beef, which, as we were ſo near Bruſa, we thought we might venture to make a preſent of to this fellow. But when we offered it to him, to our great ſurpriſe, he refuſed it, adding, that the day before he had ſeen it on a plate with ſome ham.—Although I knew that the Coran is as ſevere as the Jewiſh law, reſpecting its inhibitions againſt touching any of the *unclean animals*, I had no notion

of meeting in a Janizary, with ſuch an inſtance of ſcrupulous pertinacity.

About two o'clock we arrived at Bruſa, which is one of the largeſt and moſt antient cities of Aſia. Formerly it was the capital of the flouriſhing kingdom of Bithynia, where the great but unfortunate Hannibal terminated his exiſtence.—It has ſince been the ſeat of the Ottoman empire *, and the mauſoleums of ſeveral Sultans (among which is that of Orchan) are ſtill to be ſeen.—It ſtands at the foot of Olympus, a mountain of an immenſe height, and whoſe ſummit is, at all ſeaſons of the year, covered with ſnow; whilſt the lower hills are planted

* Bruſa was the firſt capital of the Turks. It was beſieged and taken by Orchan in the year of the Hegira 726 (which was the year 1325 of the Chriſtian æra) during the reign of his father Othman I. who was the founder of the Ottoman empire.

It is the birth-place of Aſclepiades, the celebrated phyſician.

with

with firs and cheſnut-trees, and clothed with the brighteſt verdure. This mountain is ſaid to have derived its name from the celebrated Olympus in Theſſaly, which was feigned by the Antients to be the abode of their Gods.—It ſo abounds with ſprings, that no city in Turkey is ſo well ſupplied with water, almoſt every houſe having a fountain, which the Turks reckon among their chief luxuries.—On the oppoſite ſide of the city, there is a fertile and extenſive plain, planted with mulberry trees for the nouriſhment of the ſilk-worms, which proſper here exceedingly, and produce remarkably fine ſilk. They are not, however, bred on the trees; but are kept within doors, where their food is brought to them.

Bruſa, thus ſituated, preſents a ſingular, but beautiful and romantic landſcape.—As we approached it, we ſaw it in various points of view, and the ſcenery, through all

its changes, was either elegant or wild, and always intereſting. In ſome parts, many of the houſes are built a conſiderable way up the mountain, whilſt others ſtand more ſecurely in the valley below: in others the minarets add to the ſplendour, and the plane trees to the ſoftneſs of the picture.—A wall, which is in a very ruinous ſtate, ſurrounds the city, within which none but muſſulmen are permitted to dwell; but the ſuburbs, which are far more extenſive, and infinitely better built and paved, are inhabited by Greeks, Jews and Armenians.—Compriſing both, the number of inhabitants is computed to amount to 130,000—They carry on a conſiderable trade * in ſilk, which is exported in the raw ſtate to every part of Europe, and their manufactures in this article, in carpets, in gold, and in velvet brocade, are

* The caravans from Conſtantinople and Aleppo to Iſpahan paſs through Bruſa, whence one for Perſia ſets out every two months.

juſtly

juſtly eſteemed.—Although they have not yet been able to ſimplify and reduce the exertions of labour with the ſame ſucceſs as we, yet the fabric of them is very ingenious, and much taſte is diſplayed in the variety and arrangement of the patterns.

The moſques are numerous, and ſeveral of them have large domes, covered with lead, and are in every reſpect magnificent ſtructures.—The ſeraglio, which was built by Mahomet IV, ſtands on an eminence. It is a very extenſive edifice, and is inacceſſible on every ſide, but that which leads to the city.—The caravanſaries are both handſome and convenient, and the bazar, which occupies a large ſpace of ground, is furniſhed with all the productions of the Levant, and with many rich and coſtly articles from the different countries of Europe. —Whilſt we were walking through it, we met the Pacha on foot. He was attended

by ſeveral of his guards, and every body made way for him with the greateſt obſequiouſneſs, which he returned with looks of ſullen pride and contempt. He, the Janizary Aga, and the Cadi, divide the government of the place.

A Jew, who accoſted us ſhortly after our arrival, and who had politely conducted us about the city, towards the evening, took us to a place where pipes and coffee are given, and which, on account of its agreeable ſituation, is very much reſorted to, during the ſummer months.—To get there, we were obliged to mount a ſteep aſcent, when we were ſurpriſed at finding a large plat of ground, thickly planted with trees. A current of water, which derives its ſource from an overhanging mountain, paſſes through it, and, from being confined between two large planks, flows with great impetuoſity.—Under the ſhade of theſe trees, and at the ſides of

of this current, the Turks ſit, and with the alternate amuſement of a pipe, a cup of coffee, and a nap, contrive to loiter away the day.—Of theſe three indolent occupations, the pipe ſeems to afford the greateſt enjoyment, and the genius of the people has been exerted in the refinement of this luxury.—They now make uſe of a pipe which has a tube four or five feet long, one end of which is put into a glaſs globe, half full of water, and is ſo contrived, that, as the breath is drawn, the ſmoke ruſhes through the water, and is conſequently received cool into the mouth. When the water begins to loſe its freſhneſs, it is changed, which operation is performed ſeveral times, before the tobacco is exhauſted.

During the whole of our journey, we had been complaining of the great ſcarcity of proviſions, making ſometimes fruitleſs enquiries, even after bread: and notwithſtanding

ſtanding the population of Bruſa, no fleſh was to be procured.—On aſking the reaſon of what appeared, on the firſt view, ſo very incomprehenſible, I was informed, that at this ſeaſon of the year, between the riſing and the ſetting of the ſun, ſcarcely any eatable is ever to be obtained, on account of the Ramazan *, which is the Turkiſh lent, and which, although a religious, I will venture to add, is a ridiculous inſtitution. It laſts for four weeks, during which time the order of Nature is completely reverſed, and the followers of Mahomet, whilſt the day laſts, are ſtrictly forbidden to take any kind of nouriſhment.—However violent may be

* The Ramazan is the ninth month of the Turkiſh year, and the length of their month being entirely regulated by the moon, this faſt falls at different ſeaſons. When it happens in the ſummer, thoſe, who obſerve it rigidly, ſuffer dreadfully from thirſt, and wait with the greateſt impatience for the voice of the muezzins, or criers, who announce from the minarets the moment at which it is lawful to take food.

the

the cravings of an empty ſtomach, till the ſun has ſunk below the horizon, they muſt be endured. They are permitted to ſleep *if they can*; but the pipe is a luxury, in which it is unlawful to indulge, and even water is denied them.—Theſe ſevere and abſurd injunctions prove fatal to a number of people, eſpecially to thoſe who are advanced in years. They are, however, relaxed in favour of the ſick and travellers*, which is a convenient conceſſion for thoſe who are not over conſcientious.

We paſſed the night in a warehouſe; but the fleas †, with which it ſwarmed, ſo tormented us, that we could get no ſleep.

* If the law be ſtrictly complied with, thoſe who, on account of ſickneſs or for other reaſons, have omitted to faſt during the Ramazan, do not eſcape, but ſubmit to the penalty when theſe reaſons no longer exiſt.

† Many of the floors in theſe warehouſes are covered with mats, which are a harbour for theſe deteſtable inſects.

Shortly

Shortly after we had taken up our quarters in this warehouſe, a man, whom curioſity had induced to pay us a viſit, entered, and, being of an inquiſitive diſpoſition, ſoon began to chat very familiarly.—We were deſirous of amuſing him as much as we poſſibly could, and, after we had ſhewn him a variety of things, M——, recollecting that I had a bottle of phoſphorus, begged that I would light a match with it, merely to ſee what degree of ſurpriſe it would occaſion in the fellow. I accordingly dipped a match into the bottle, and, on pulling it out, when he firſt perceived the flame, he had ſuch an aſpect of aſtoniſhment and fear, that I believe he ſuſpected the operation was performed by ſome magical proceſs.—To obtain fire from a place in which he had no conception that the element could be confined, confounded his reaſon, and puzzled his imagination. He expreſſed a wiſh to examine the match, which I preſented to him. Eager

to

to unravel the myſtery, after viewing it in various poſitions, he at laſt applied it to his noſe; but was ſo ſtartled at the effect which the brimſtone produced, that he haſtily threw it down, appeared ſilently to condemn his thirſt after knowledge, and took the firſt opportunity of leaving the room.

On the 2d of May, we proceeded on our journey, and had not travelled many miles, when we were gratified with the ſight of one of the moſt enchanting and finiſhed land-ſcapes, it is poſſible to behold. It conſiſted of a plain, planted with cheſnut, cherry and mulberry trees, yet not too extenſive for all its beauties to be diſcerned. The plantations were arranged with unſtudied taſte, and the ſpaces between them were filled up with parterres of vines, whoſe branches were trained round the trees. On three ſides the view was terminated by lofty mountains, which were cultivated to their very

very ſummits, and in many parts adorned with ſerpentine hedges, compoſed of jeſſamy, eglantine and honey-ſuckle, which grew in wild luxuriance, and perfumed the air.—The plain was interſected by a meandering rivulet, that gently poured its tribute into the ſea, by which the fourth ſide was bounded. I wiſh that you, who are a lover of cultivated nature, had been with me to participate my feelings, whilſt I was dwelling on this unrivalled picture.

In the courſe of the day, we paſſed an arm of the ſea, on the borders of which a few workmen were building a ſhip of war for the Grand Seignor. How long it had been on the ſtocks, I cannot pretend to ſay; but it was not in a very advanced ſtate, and from the ſlovenly manner in which it was put together, I thought there was ſome chance of its falling to pieces, before it was finiſhed.—Whilſt obſerving it, I could not help

help reflecting, and with no ſmall degree of pride and ſatisfaction, on the navy and dock-yards of Great Britain.—How they would ſurpriſe theſe ignorant and clumſy mechanics!

We had been ten hours (a tedious length of time) on horſeback, when we ſtopped to dine under the ſhade of a tree, on the banks of a gurgling brook, exhibiting an exact copy of paſtoral life.

After dinner we travelled for four hours, and, deſirous of finiſhing our journey, we made one effort more, and, ſetting off at ten o'clock at night, reached Yalova by five in the morning.

It is ſcarcely poſſible to imagine the wretched ſtate of the road which we traverſed for the laſt twelve or fourteen miles. It was very narrow, and little better than a precipice;

precipice; and, in many parts, ſo thickly overſhaded with trees, that it reſembled all the horrours of enchantment. The poor horſes which carried our baggage, had ſeveral ſevere falls, and thoſe we rode, hardly made a ſtep without ſtumbling. Like *true* Engliſhmen, we ſcorned all admonition, and, flattering ourſelves each moment that the road would mend, we preferred running the riſk of breaking our necks to the trouble of diſmounting.—Had not, however, the obſcurity of the night concealed our danger, we ſhould, perhaps, have been leſs imprudent.—Our conductors, aſtoniſhed at the dreadful ruggedneſs of the path, began to ſuſpect that they had miſſed their way; and whilſt they were communicating their doubts to each other, a man was fortunately diſcovered, who, by offering his ſervices, relieved them from their dilemma.

We

We waited but a ſhort time at Yalova, whence we embarked on board a Greek veſſel for Conſtantinople.

After a pleaſant ſail of eight hours on the ſea of Marmara (the antient Propontis) we came in ſight of that renowned capital, which preſents one of the moſt glorious and magnificent ſcenes in the world, and for a deſcription of which I ſhall refer you to the elegant Gibbon.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 9, 1792.

THE inſide of Conſtantinople by no means correſponds with the ſplendid ſcene which it preſents as you approach it.—The ſtreets are narrow and badly paved, and the houſes are, in general, of wood, and rudely built. Moſt of them are two ſtories high, and have balconies and terraces, where the Turks, in fine weather, ſmoke their pipes, and drink their coffee.—The city is ſurrounded with a wall, flanked with towers, which is in pretty good repair, but quite unfurniſhed with artillery. Comprehending the ſuburbs of Pera and Galata, it is of an immenſe extent, and is computed

to

to contain upwards of 600,000 ſouls.—Being the capital of a rich and populous empire, like all other great cities, it is the ſeat of profligacy and diſſipation, and pre-eminently diſtinguiſhed for luxury and vice.

When we reflect on the ſudden, various and total revolutions, which this renowned metropolis has undergone; when we recollect, that it was once the receptacle of an undiſtinguiſhed colony of Greeks; that it was afterwards created by Conſtantine the capital of the world, and ordained to rear its lofty head above the majeſtic walls of Rome; and that, finally, after arduous and repeated ſtruggles, it was deſtined to yield to the arms of a barbarian conqueror, and to remain, for ſo many centuries, in the poſſeſſion of a race of infidels; we have a moſt awful and ſtriking leſſon, on the inſignificance of human grandeur, the inſtability of fortune, and the folly of repoſing, with

too much confidence, on our own ſtrength and reſources.

Whilſt under the dominion of Conſtantine and his ſucceſſors, it had been adorned with ſome of the fineſt productions of art, and, in point of magnificence, even emulated Rome.—At the time when it was taken in the fifteenth century by Mahomet II. many of thoſe noble monuments of human ingenuity and perſeverance ſtill exiſted; but it was the object and the labour of its new maſter to mutilate and deſtroy every veſtige, which could convey any idea of the advancement of learning and the fine arts.—It was not, however, one reign which could accompliſh this unworthy, this ſacrilegious deſign, and even to this day, there are ſome few remains of antiquity to be ſeen, which are worthy of exciting admiration.

The firſt place we were conducted to, was

was the Hippodrome, where horſe races and other amuſements of the ſame nature were formerly exhibited. The Turks have indeed reſerved it for ſimilar purpoſes, and are very dexterous in the management of their horſes, which are ſurpriſingly fleet. —Here it is they alſo frequently practiſe throwing the jirid, which is one of their favourite diverſions, and at which they are aſtoniſhingly expert *.—But the Hippodrome

* I have extracted the following note from Prince Cantemir's Hiſtory of the Othman Empire. See p. 90. Annotation 41.

" The jirid is a ſort of light miſſive javelin much uſed by the Turks. They who are expert in the uſe of it carry three of theſe javelins in a caſe hung from the right ſide their horſe, with which they hit the mark with an exactneſs ſcarce to be matched by the moſt ſkilful gunners. Of this I ſhall give an inſtance, which, had I not been an eye-witneſs, I ſhould hardly have believed. In the laſt year of the former war, before the forces departed from Zenta, ſome of the Emperor's

drome is ſtripped of all that magnificence and ſplendour with which the Greek Emperor adorned it, and is now nothing more than a large irregular ſquare, incloſed with irregular buildings. Near its centre there is an obeliſk of porphyry, which is in a perfect ſtate, and, although very lofty, is of one ſtone. The four ſides of it are covered with hieroglyphics, which is perhaps a proof that it is of Egyptian workmanſhip. It reſts on

Chamberlains exerciſed this ſport before him on a plain near Philippolis. The javelins they uſed were not pointed but blunt at the end. One Mehemed Aga, a Circaſſian, and Maſter of the Stables (a place of great dignity with the Turks) was among them. One of the company hit him unawares upon the back with a jirid ſent with great force. Mehemed, aſhamed, and perhaps enraged with the ſmart, gave the reins to his horſe of the Egyptian breed, and furiouſly purſued the flying enemy, who, ſenſible that if he rid directly on he could not eſcape his purſuer, turned his horſe to the right, when Mehemed with a javelin ſent after him, blunt

on four brazen balls, ſupported by a well-proportioned pedeſtal, on which there are various baſs-reliefs, and inſcriptions, both in Greek and Latin, mentioning, that it was reſtored by Theodoſius to its preſent condition.

At a ſmall diſtance from this obeliſk, there is another, which, from its mutilated appearance, bears the marks of very remote antiquity. It is compoſed of ſeveral pieces of ſtone, and, from the numerous holes in its ſurface, it is evident, that it was formerly covered with plates of bronze or ſome other metal.

The famous brazen triple ſerpent, of

blunt as it was, pierced the jaws of his horſe, and threw both horſe and rider to the ground.—I ſaw the ſame man, in oſtentation of his ſtrength, ſtrike an ordinary and pointleſs jirid through the outer gate of a monaſtery in Moldavia, made of planks three inches thick."

which Mahomet II. broke one of the heads, when he triumphantly entered the city, ſtill continues to attract ſtrangers to the Hippodrome, and to remind them of the fooliſh arrogance of that haughty deſpot.—Exaſperated at the long and vigorous defence that had been made, he regarded this inoffenſive ſerpent as a taliſman, which had inſpired reſiſtance to his arms, and, for ſuch a length of time, rendered his efforts ineffectual. When it was in his power, he accordingly took his impotent revenge.—This remarkable pillar is very antient, and is ſaid to have been brought from Delphi, where it ſerved to ſupport the celebrated tripod of gold, which the Greeks, after the battle of Platæa, conſecrated to Apollo.

The moſques, in general, are noble ſtructures, and, although incorrect in point of architecture, like the Gothic cathedrals with us, they are ſtriking on account of their ſolidity

ſolidity and dimenſions.—They ſtand in ſpacious courts, which are ornamented with trees and fountains, and the acceſſes to them are convenient and good. They have all ſeveral domes, and from one to ſix or ſeven minarets, which are high ſlender towers with two or three outſide galries, whence the muezzins, in an audible voice, proclaim the hours of prayer. They are kept very clean within, and many of them are maintained at an enormous expence.—Of theſe moſques, which are very numerous, ſeven, by way of pre-eminence, are diſtinguiſhed by the title of Royal moſques; and of theſe again, St. Sophia is, in every reſpect, the moſt magnificent and remarkable.—I ſhall, therefore, endeavour to give you a deſcription of it.

This celebrated temple was erected by Juſtinian, and dedicated by him to the ſervice of the true God; and, although defaced in many

many parts, and diveſted of thoſe coſtly ornaments which once adorned it, is ſtill a ſuperb edifice.—When Mahomet II. entered the city, ſtruck with the majeſty of its appearance, he allowed it to eſcape the ravages of his exterminating hand, and converted it into a place of religious worſhip for his followers.—The entrance is through a double portico, which communicates with the body of the church by means of ſeveral folding doors of bronze, covered with baſs-reliefs.—The inſide conſiſts of an immenſe ile, three ſides of which are encompaſſed with a gallery, ſupported by an aſtoniſhing number of variegated marble pillars.—The principal dome is very large, and is much admired for its juſtneſs of proportion.—The walls are entirely encruſted with marble, and the pavement and ſtairs, which are covered with carpets, are of the ſame expenſive material.—We were only permitted to take a view of this church from a part of the gallery,

through

through a lattice. Several Turks were at prayers, although no perſon was officiating; ſome quite motionleſs, whilſt others entertained us with a variety of violent and extravagant geſticulation.—Near the middle of the ile, a pulpit is erected for the Mufti, and, beyond it, ſtands a kind of pew with a gilded lattice, which is appropriated to the Grand Seignor, when he honours this moſque with his preſence.—The man who conducted us through the gallery (and who had made us pay pretty handſomely for his trouble *) deſired us to remark two ſtone gates, one of which he ſaid, led to paradiſe, the other to the infernal regions.—He alſo, with a ſarcaſtic ſmile, pointed out a croſs, which is repreſented in Moſaic on one of

* The Turks are rather ſcrupulous about ſhewing this moſque to ſtrangers, or perhaps they only pretend to be ſo, becauſe this is the one ſtrangers are moſt anxious to ſee. We were obliged to pay fifteen dollars to gain admiſſion.

the

the walls, and is a remnant of the Greek ornaments.—There are indeed ſeveral remains of Moſaic pictures to be ſeen in different parts; but the Turks, paying no attention to them, nor taking any pains to preſerve them, they are falling faſt to decay. They are made of a curious compoſition of a vitrified nature, and the colours, which are of numerous ſhades, retain their original luſtre.

Such are the principal antient relicks of the former ſplendour of Conſtantinople.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XV.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 10, 1792.

IN conſequence of a multiplicity of engagements, from which I could not poſſibly diſentangle myſelf, I was obliged yeſterday to conclude my letter very abruptly. I have not, however, allowed myſelf to remain long idle, and by reſuming my narrative ſo ſoon, the whole will in all probability be conveyed to you by the ſame poſt, ſo that your curioſity will not ſuffer very materially from the anxiety of ſuſpenſe.

As the Grand Seignor goes publickly to

to moſque but once a week, which is on a Friday; the day after our arrival, we went to ſee the ceremony.

Croſſing over from Galata *, before we landed at Conſtantinople, we employed above an hour in rowing about the harbour†, which preſents one of the moſt lively, beautiful, and intereſting ſpectacles imaginable. —It is very ſpacious, being fifteen or ſixteen miles in circumference, and the water is covered with ſhips of war, merchantmen from different quarters of the globe, and a ſurpriſing number of boats which are in continual motion, and remarkable for their elegance of ſhape and decoration.

* Galata forms the northern entrance of the harbour, and is ſeparated from Conſtantinople by a narrow channel.

† This harbour, on account of its curved form, and the riches which it brought to the city, was known to the Antients under the expreſſive epithet of the *Golden Horn*.

When

When we reached the Seraglio, the Sultan * was on his return, which is an exact repetition of the ceremony when he goes.—My expectations had been conſiderably raiſed by an ideal contemplation of the pompous train of an oriental monarch, and, as is generally the caſe, when the reality was preſented to my ſenſes, my diſappointment was proportionable:—for after the ſplendid proceſſions of the other parts of Europe have been ſeen, certainly thoſe of the Turkiſh Emperor are not calculated to produce much ſurpriſe.

Before his arrival, a number of his attendants were continually riding in and out of the Seraglio, in a diſorderly manner. Sometimes twenty or thirty ſucceeded, two abreaſt, when the line was abruptly broken

* The name of the preſent Emperor is Selim III. He ſucceeded to the throne of his anceſtors on the 6th of April 1789.

off, and quite diſcontinued for a few minutes, at the expiration of which, it recommenced. The Captain of the Janizaries, the chief of the Eunuchs, and ſeveral of the other great officers of ſtate attended.—Their horſes were richly capariſoned, and adorned with gold chains and other rich trappings, ſome of which were ſtudded with precious ſtones: but their own robes, though coſtly, being lined with furs of great value, were rather plain than brilliant. As they paſſed, they were ſaluted by the Janizaries, a file of whom were ſtationed on each ſide.—Their manner of ſalutation is remarkable, and exhibits a diſguſting picture of Eaſtern ſervitude and humility. They incline their heads to one ſide, expoſing their bare necks, and intimating by this geſture, that their lives are at the entire diſpoſal of theſe ſupercilious tyrants. How the character of man ſhrinks from the dignity which nature meant it to hold in the ſcale of creation, when it ſubmits

mits to ſuch demonſtrations of ductile imbecility and timid baſeneſs!—They were very ſhabbily clothed, but as they receive hardly any pay from their Maſter, *they*, poor fellows! are very excuſable.—The Sultan did not appear till near the cloſe of the proceſſion. The turban of ſtate was carried before him, and he was ſurrounded by about thirty men on foot, who wore caps ornamented with immenſe plumes of feathers, very thick, and extended in the ſhape of a fan.—He is rather a handſome man, about thirty years of age, and was mounted on a beautiful ſteed *. He looked remarkably grave, and noticed nobody. The Janiza-

* There are no carriages in Conſtantinople, and the Sultan generally goes about the city on horſeback.—When he takes a ride a few miles into the country, he is attended by a numerous guard, which is very diligent in keeping the road clear from the intruſion of ſtrangers.

ries repeated their ſalutation both to the turban and the Emperor as they paſſed.

Whilſt I was contemplating the features of this mighty Potentate, ſo far from feeling any emotions of awe and reſpect, I rather regarded him with an eye of alternate pity and contempt.—And, indeed, although poſſeſſed of one of the fineſt and moſt extenſive countries in the world, his ſituation is far from being enviable.—Before he was elevated to the throne, he was kept a cloſe priſoner, and never allowed to ſtir without the walls of the Seraglio.—Totally uninformed, and blinded by the impoſing artifices and ſervile adulation of his miniſters, his life is a conſtant deluſion, and he is the continual ſport of craft and corruption.—The knowledge of every virtue which can ennoble the heart and refine the underſtanding of man is carefully ſuppreſſed, that the hatred

of

of vice may not be imbibed, and that its votaries may not be puniſhed.—Unacquainted with the nobleſt feelings of our nature, and forbidden the enjoyment of a friendſhip founded on mutual eſteem, all his pleaſures muſt flow from a contaminated ſource. Bribery, corruption, and cruelty, are the fundamental principles of his government, and the dread of his people is the ſupport and ſecurity of his power.—Such is the humiliating portrait of a deſpot's life!

The Seraglio is a vaſt but inelegant pile of buildings, ſituated on a point of land which runs into the ſea, and encloſed by high walls, which are ſaid to be nearly three miles in circumference *.—Including the haram, it conſiſts of twelve courts, which have been built at different times, and according to the various taſtes of the reigning Princes; ſo

* It is built on the ſpot where formerly ſtood the city of Byzantium.

that very little attention, if any, has been paid to uniformity, or the common rules of architecture.—The apartments, I am informed, are chiefly ornamented with Turkiſh inſcriptions; ſentences of Arabic; pictures which are very coarſely executed, and loaded with the moſt glaring colours; fountains; marble baſons; baths; and the preſents which have been made by the ambaſſadors from foreign courts, ſuch as glaſſes, vaſes, carpets, &c.—The upper apartments are occupied by the women, and have domes with golden creſcents, cabinets, balconies, galleries and terraces.

The principal entrance into this remarkable palace is through a large gate, whence the title of the Porte originates. It is very lofty, and arched at top; and, on each ſide, there are ſeveral windows and Arabian inſcriptions.

Of

Of the twelve courts, ſtrangers are only admitted into the two firſt, which contain the offices for the reſidence of the menial ſervants; an infirmary for the ſick; the ſtock of wood for the conſumption of the palace; the kitchens, which have domes with holes in the centre to let out the ſmoke; a ſmall ſtable, where thoſe horſes are kept which are reſerved for the Emperor's particular uſe; the treaſury; and the mint. —The ſecond court is better paved, and, in every reſpect, much handſomer than the firſt. It is laid with turf in the middle, embelliſhed with fountains, and ſurrounded with a gallery which is ſupported by pillars of marble.—The Divan, where the foreign miniſters receive their public audiences, is at one end of this court, and is nothing more than a large hall, covered with wainſcoting.—Our conductor alſo pointed out to us the place where the Grand Vizier's head is generally expoſed,

after depoſition.—At this moment that important but perilous office is vacant. The laſt who filled it was an able and popular man; but through the cabals and intrigues of his enemies, he was lately diſmiſſed, and another is not yet appointed to ſucceed him. The almoſt invariable rule of decollation was waved in his favour, and he has been permitted to retire; but, being very rich, he is perhaps reſerved for a day of neceſſity.

In the mint a number of men are conſtantly employed in manufacturing the various coins of the country, which, according to the exigencies of the ſtate, are debaſed and diminiſhed. At preſent, their intrinſic value is ſo ſmall, that, out of Turkey, they will ſcarcely paſs for any thing. One part of this office is allotted for the fabrication of ornamental gold and ſilver for the Seraglio, and they ſhewed us ſeveral articles

ticles which were nearly finiſhed, and the workmanſhip of which was very good.

This is all that a ſtranger is permitted to explore.—To penetrate farther, the penalty would be death.

Near the outer gate of the palace there is a moſt magnificent fountain, which is adorned with paintings, and ſeveral inſcriptions in Turkiſh and Arabic characters.

Every Sultan, when he dies, has a mauſoleum erected to his memory.—On our return from the Seraglio, we ſtopped to ſee that of the late Emperor.—His aſhes are ſurrounded by thoſe of his children, who were very numerous, and each coffin is covered with cloth, and ſplendidly decorated. Lamps and wax tapers are kept conſtantly burning, and the father's tomb is diſtinguiſhed from the others by a tur-

ban, which is placed on a cuſhion at his head.

As the Turks never bury twice in the ſame ſpot, the ground about Conſtantinople, which is conſecrated to the dead, is very extenſive*.—They plant their burying grounds with

* The ceremony which the Turks obſerve at the interment of their dead is very curious.—When any perſon dies, it is immediately known by the dreadful howlings which are made by the women belonging to the houſe. All his relations and friends then aſſemble, and join in theſe lamentations; after which a mournful dirge is ſung to his praiſe, and a prayer offered up for his future happineſs.—Sometimes theſe pitiful ſtrains laſt for two or three days; and thoſe who are not diſpoſed to expreſs ſuch violent ſymptoms of grief, for ſuch a length of time, hire people for the occaſion. When his remains are depoſited in the earth the howlings are renewed, and a cypreſs is planted at the head and foot of the grave, which, whilſt they are young and tender, are taken great care of by his relations, who are in general very deſirous that they ſhould thrive.

with cypreſs trees, which give them a very ſolemn appearance, and many of the monuments are handſome and coſtly.

One day, as I was walking about the city, I had an opportunity of obſerving the attention which the Muſſulmen pay to the funeral rites of their countrymen.—I met ſix people, carrying a man, who, but a few hours before, had died of the plague. When they were fatigued, they put down the coffin in the middle of the ſtreet, and ſhortly after, as many others took it up.—This ceremony was repeated by the neareſt ſpectators, till it was conveyed to the place of interment; it being one of the moſt ſacred duties of

thrive.—The monuments are frequently of marble, and are ornamented with inſcriptions and white or green turbans; and ſome few, which are erected to the memory of perſons of conſequence, are encloſed with an iron rail, which is painted green. Thoſe of the women are not allowed theſe diſtinctions.

their

their religion, never to refuſe their aſſiſtance on this awful occaſion.—A prieſt marched ſolemnly before, and led the way.

The caſtle of the Seven Towers is ſituated on that angle of the city which borders on the ſea of Marmara. It is built in the form of a pentagon, and the roof is covered with lead.—The treaſure of the Grand Seignor was formerly kept there, but it has ſince been converted into a ſtate priſon.

At a ſhort diſtance from the Hippodrome, there is a large ſubterraneous building, which is arched, and ſupported by a great many bulky ſtone pillars. At preſent it is occupied by ſilk ſpinners; but is conjectured to have been formerly a reſervoir for water, that, in caſe of fire, there might be an immediate ſupply.—If it were ſtill reſerved for that purpoſe it would not be amiſs, for the ravages of this devouring element are very

frequently and very ſeverely felt *.—From this place we went to ſee the Emperor's wild beaſts, which are kept in an old tower; but there is nothing very curious or rare, and moſt of the capital cities of Europe can boaſt of a better collection.

Galata and Pera † are the two principal ſuburbs of Conſtantinople, and, ſeparately taken, would each form a reſpectable city.

Galata is defended by a wall, flanked with towers, which was erected by the Genoeſe, and is ſtill in tolerable repair.—Moſt of the European merchants have compting-houſes and magazines here, on account of

* The Turks, being fataliſts, diſdain to introduce into their country the inventions of more enlightened people, and have never yet thought of making uſe of fire-engines.

† Beſides Galata and Pera there is another ſmall ſuburb called Topana.

the

the convenience of the ſituation, Galata forming the entrance of the harbour from the north.—To protect them, in ſome meaſure, from the dreadful havock which the fires occaſion, moſt of them have two or three fire-proof warehouſes*, where they ſtore their moſt valuable merchandize.—The quays are extenſive, and are planted with artillery, which, to the great amuſement of the Turks, are diſcharged on days of feſtivity.—Some of the guns are very large, but they are all without carriages.

From Galata there is a conſiderable aſcent to Pera, which ſtands in a delightful ſituation, and is the reſidence of all the Ambaſſadors and foreign Miniſters, whoſe houſes, after the Eaſtern manner, are ſtyled palaces. Many of the merchants have alſo

* The European merchants at Smyrna have alſo ware-houſes built on a ſimilar conſtruction, which, in Turkiſh cities, are the only ſecurity againſt fire.

their

their dwelling-houſes here, for it is by far the moſt agreeable place to live in. The ſtreets are wider and more ſcattered, and the air conſequently purer, than either at Conſtantinople or Galata.

We were ſo deſirous of ſeeing the principal bazar, that we overcame our dread of the plague, and one morning croſſed over to Conſtantinople for that expreſs purpoſe.—It is a large ſquare ſtructure, covered with domes, which are ſuſtained by arches and pilaſters. —We found it crowded with people from different parts of the empire, and the ſhops were furniſhed with all kinds of merchandize.—The ſlave market, which is at a ſmall diſtance from this bazar, we did not venture to enter, but I am told that it exhibits a curious ſcene.—The Jews carry on this unfeeling and infamous traffic, and bring the women from Greece, Candia, Georgia, Circaſſia, and ſtill more remote provinces.—

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The moſt beautiful girls are not, however, to be purchaſed at the public market; but are kept in the private houſes of the Jews, where they are educated at a great expence, being taught to dance, to ſing, and to play on divers muſical inſtruments; and where they practiſe all the arts and allurements which the tendereſt of paſſions can inſpire.

The Turks are extremely jealous of their women, ſo that no females of condition are to be ſeen in the ſtreets. Even the Greeks, Armenians and Jews do not allow them much liberty, but keep them a great deal at home, where they amuſe themſelves, as well as they can, with bathing, drinking coffee and ſherbet, and embroidery, at which they are very expert.

I had almoſt forgotten to mention that on our return from the bazar, we were obliged to take off our coats, and to have them

expoſed, for a few hours, in the open air, to purify them from any infection which might have adhered to them.—At Smyrna, where they are much more apprehenſive of the plague, under ſimilar circumſtances, we ſhould at leaſt have undergone the ceremony of fumigation.

The country ſeats belonging to the Emperor are chiefly on the banks of the canal, at a ſmall diſtance from the city; but are by no means ſplendid edifices. He has a kioſk *, ſupported by marble pillars, which looks immediately on the harbour, and,

* A kioſk is a kind of pavilion, raiſed a few feet from the ground, and open on every ſide. They are frequently erected on the borders of the water, and moſt of the rich Turks have them in their gardens, where they ſleep in the ſummer time, after dinner, and enjoy the coolneſs of the evening air.—Many of them are very elegantly fitted up, being paved with marble, and adorned with fountains and painted ceilings, and rich carpets to ſit on.

when

when he goes a-pleaſuring on the canal, he generally embarks from it.—He is very fond of water expeditions, and often makes excurſions in his barges, ſome of which are rowed by a hundred men, and are, in every reſpect, truly magnificent *.

From the elegance of the boats and barges, one would expect to find more taſte diſplayed in the conſtruction of the ſhips of war; but they are ſo overloaded with gilding, carving, and painting, that they have a very awkward and clumſy appearance.—Notwithſtanding the ſtrength and ſize of theſe veſſels, the Turkiſh ſailors † are ſo

* Whilſt I was at Conſtantinople they were finiſhing a new ſtate barge for the Emperor.—It was of a long narrow ſhape, and moſt richly ornamented with carving and gilding. The rowers are amazingly expert, and move together with the greateſt exactneſs.

† I met at Conſtantinople with an Engliſh gentleman who, during the late war with Ruſſia, had ſerved on

ſo inexpert, and ſo thoroughly unacquainted with naval tacticks, that, in ſea engagements, they are uniformly beaten even by an inferiour force.

Though there are ſome delightful ſpots near Conſtantinople, the country does not, on the whole, pleaſe me ſo much as the environs of Smyrna.—Belgrade and Bujukedere are the two prettieſt villages in the neighbourhood, and are the places where the Franks chiefly reſide during the ſummer ſeaſon.—The firſt is ſituated in the middle of a beautiful wood, which is refreſhed by ſeveral currents of limpid water, and is, in my opinion, much to be preferred: the latter commands a fine view of the canal, on whoſe

on board the Turkiſh fleet, and had been in an engagement.—He gave me a miſerable account of them as ſeamen, and ſaid that they were deſtitute of every good quality; that they obſerved no diſcipline; and poſſeſſed neither courage nor ſkill.

borders it ſtands.—In our way to Belgrade, we paſſed through ſome rich and extenſive meadows, where the Grand Seignor's horſes are kept at this time of the year.—They were very numerous, and each was faſtened to the ground by a tether, round one of his hind and fore legs. A great many tents were pitched for thoſe who had the care of them, and which, from being intermixed with ſuch a crowd of horſes, afforded us a novel and pleaſing ſcene.

By deviating a little from the direct road, we ſaw an aqueduct, which was erected by Juſtinian, and which, although not comparable to that near Niſmes, is by no means a contemptible ſtructure.—A degeneracy of taſte is, however, immediately perceived, which informs you that it is not a production of the Auguſtan age.—It conſiſts of two bridges, one built upon the other, and each ſupported by four noble arches, the effect of

which

which is very much diminiſhed by ſeveral very inſignificant ones, which are crowded into the intermediate ſpaces.—The cones, which are erected againſt the ſides to ſtrengthen them, are all reverſed, and have a very ſingular appearance.—This aqueduct was raiſed to conduct water to the metropolis (where few ſprings are to be found) and it ſtill ſerves for that purpoſe.—We had not proceeded much farther, when we paſſed three Turkiſh aqueducts, which are very ſolid but very clumſy edifices.—In the wood of Belgrade, there is an immenſe baſon, which ſupplies them with water.

We dined at Mr. T——'s at Belgrade, and, returning by Bujukedere, we entered Pera by night.—The moſques, which, on account of the Ramazan, are all illuminated, made a very grand and brilliant appearance; but what moſt ſurpriſed me was the aſtoniſhing number of dogs which we found

lying in every part of the ſtreets, and which, as it was rather late, I ſuppoſe had taken up their night's lodging.—It was with the greateſt difficulty that we could prevent our horſes from treading on them, for they were ſo lazy, that the imminent danger which threatened them did not, in the leaſt, rouſe them from their lethargy. On our journey from Smyrna, we had been very much annoyed by theſe animals.—In the villages particularly, they ſwarmed to ſuch a degree, and were ſo troubleſome, that as ſoon as we came in ſight of the houſes, we generally deemed it adviſable to deſcend from our horſes, and fill our pockets with ſtones, which we uſed as defenſive weapons.—One morning, I recollect, I was very much diverted with an incident that occurred, as we were entering one of theſe villages. A ſtrange dog, with an abundance of ſtrength in his limbs, and of fierceneſs in his countenance, made a moſt violent and unprovoked

attack on a cur belonging to one of our guides, and which was by no means his match.—This ſo enraged his maſter, that he, in an inſtant, ſprang from his horſe, and with his drawn ſabre purſued the wretched animal for two or three hundred yards.—The dog, however, had ſo much the advantage in point of fleetneſs, that the indignant Turk was at length obliged to abandon the purſuit, and to ſatisfy himſelf with the deſire he had ſhewn of revenging the injury.

Conſtantinople, conſidering its populouſneſs and ſituation, is not a place of very extenſive commerce. Still a number of European merchants are eſtabliſhed here, and ſome of them have acquired very ample fortunes, and live in great ſplendour *.

The

* In many of the fitting rooms both at Conſtantinople and Smyrna, there are no fire-places, and,

The ſociety is much larger than that of Smyrna, but not ſo agreeable, on account of the tribe of foreign miniſters, who diſtinguiſh themſelves by a great deal of ridiculous parade, and inſiſt on a degree of ceremony which deſtroys the freedom, and conſequently the pleaſure, of ſocial engagements.—With the Turks, who are very fond of external ſhow, it is perhaps proper that it ſhould be obſerved; but I think, in other reſpects, the greateſt part of it is ſuperfluous, and might very well be dropped.

to warm them, a contrivance called a *Tendour* has been adopted.—It is nothing more than a ſquare table, ſufficiently large to accommodate eight or ten people. Under it is placed a pan of charcoal, and it is covered with a fine carpet or ſome other rich ſtuff which, when pendent, is long enough to reach the ground, and conſequently prevents a great portion of the heat from eſcaping.—Thoſe who are deſirous of warming themſelves approach this table, and, lolling on a ſofa, pull the covering over their ſhoulders, and exhibit no ſad picture of Aſiatic indolence.

The

The day before yeſterday we dined at Sir Robert A——'s *, and, in the evening, accompanied him to the Poliſh Ambaſſador's, where a grand feſtival was given, in honour of his Sovereign's birth-day.—The Ambaſſador and all his ſuite were richly dreſſed in the habit of their country, and the principal room was decorated with wreaths of flowers, twined round mottos which were ſuitable to the occaſion.—There was a concert

* This gentleman was then Ambaſſador at Conſtantinople, from our Court.

It is remarkable, that two-thirds of the ſalary of our Ambaſſador are paid by the Turkey Company, which is a very heavy tax on their funds. The regular annual diſburſement is 2000l. beſides other adventitious expences, which are frequently conſiderable.—At the appointment of Mr. L——, the late Ambaſſador, the outfits and preſents amounted to upwards of 2200l.—The ſalary, however, is not adequate to the ſtation, and debars our Ambaſſador from living on an equality with the other members of the diplomatic corps, and from maintaining that dignity which is ſuitable to his rank, as Repreſentative of the Britiſh Empire.

of inſtrumental muſic, after which the company ſat down to an elegant ſupper, and after the ſupper there was a ball.—This nobleman, who is nearly related to the King, in addition to his private fortune, which is very conſiderable, receives from the Porte, as Poliſh Ambaſſador, five hundred piaſtres a day; ſo that he can well afford to live in ſplendour.

In Conſtantinople, a Frank, unleſs he be the aggreſſor, is not often ſeriouſly inſulted. —If, however, any abuſive language ſhould be uſed, it is prudent not to notice it; for, if a quarrel enſue, whichever party is in the wrong, the Turks will always ſupport their countrymen.—Since the laſt war, the Ruſſians are more reſpected, or rather dreaded, than any other Chriſtian nation *.

* The Turks, in the late war, gave ſo many proofs of weakneſs and degeneracy, that they probably will not be able to reſiſt the violence of ſuch another conteſt.

In

In Turkey, I obſerve, the Italian language prevails much more generally than the French, whether from its being acquired with greater facility, or from their long intercourſe with many of the Italian States, I cannot pretend to ſay.——The Armenians, Jews and others, who act as brokers, and tranſact buſineſs, either for themſelves or for the European merchants, eſtabliſhed in different parts of the empire, all converſe fluently in Italian, whereas but few of them are at all acquainted with French.

I cannot conclude this letter, without informing you of the kindneſs and hoſpitality of Mr. T———, a Britiſh merchant ſettled here.—When we delivered our letters to him, he inſiſted that we ſhould remain at his houſe, and by his generous, polite, and affable behaviour, haa

has ſo entirely removed all reſtraint, that we already begin to conſider ourſelves at home.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

GALATZ, May 24, 1792.

IN my laſt, I neglected to mention Scutari *, a conſiderable town on the Aſian ſide of the canal, immediately oppoſite to Conſtantinople, and which many, though with no great propriety, conſider as one of the ſuburbs of that city.—It is delightfully ſituated, and ſtands at no great

* Scutari is the only city that is ſituated on the Aſian banks of the Boſphorus. It is large and well peopled, and contains a few fine buildings.—It is the antient Chryſopolis; near which that deſperate battle was fought between Conſtantine and Licinius, which ſecured to the former the undivided poſſeſſion of the Roman world.

diſtance

diſtance from the ſpot, where once flouriſhed the antient Chalcedon.

The government of this place is entruſted to a Pacha, who is appointed by the Grand Seignor; but who is, at preſent, ſo powerful, that he is only regarded as an object of dread.—A few years back he openly rebelled againſt his Sovereign, and, at this moment, his fidelity is ſuſpected.—I thought this information rather intereſting:—I ſhall now purſue my travels.

On the 10th of May we left Conſtantinople, and that we might have a finer view of the canal, we went in a boat to Bujukedere.

This canal is the antient Thracian Boſphorus, ſo famous in hiſtory, through which the waters of the Euxine inceſſantly flow into the ſea of Marmara, and afterwards, continuing

continuing their courſe through the Helleſpont, finally diſembogue themſelves into the Mediterranean *.

This celebrated ſtreight, which ſeparates the two continents of Europe and Aſia, reckoning from the harbour of Conſtantinople to the Cyanean rocks, extends about ſixteen miles in length; and its ordinary

* Amongſt the various currents of the Boſphorus, there is one which, on account of its ſingularity, merits particular notice. Beneath the ſtream, which runs towards the ſea of Marmara, there is, at a certain depth, a current which flows in a contrary direction, mounting from the point of the Seraglio to the caſtles. This is clearly aſcertained by the fiſhermen, who, when they drop their nets, find them, to a certain depth, carried down the canal, from north to ſouth; but when they let them fall lower down, that part of the ſame net which ſinks below the above particular depth, evidently curves the contrary way, and is borne againſt the upper current. This is a very antient diſcovery; but no ſatisfactory reaſon, as to the cauſe, has yet been given.—See Tournefort, vol. ii. p. 401.

breadth

breadth does not exceed above a mile and a half.—In one ſpot, indeed, the oppoſite ſhores approach within five hundred paces of each other.—The *old* caſtles* command this part of the canal, and here it was that Darius connected the two continents by a bridge of boats.—Its banks, particularly on the European ſide, are lined, almoſt the whole way, with villages, fortreſſes, and country ſeats, and the moſt enchanting and intereſting views are every moment inviting the eye. The water is deep and clear as cryſtal, and the anchorage is very good.

Between Conſtantinople and Scutari, ſome ruins are ſeen which are known under the

* Theſe caſtles were originally erected by the Greek Emperors, and were repaired and ſtrengthened by Mahomet II. before he laid ſiege to Conſtantinople. The *new* caſtles ſtand on two oppoſite capes, one in Europe, the other in Aſia, and are built on the ruins of the two celebrated temples of Serapis and Jupiter Urius.

name

name of Leander's tower, and which are ſaid to have been erected to the memory of the untimely fate of that adventurous youth. —But thoſe who thus named them, were probably unacquainted with the ſtory, or had forgotten that it was acroſs the Helleſpont * Leander uſed to ſwim, when he paid his viſits to the beautiful Hero.

Not being favoured by the wind, we were obliged to row the whole way, and above three hours had elapſed before we reached Bujukedere.

We had been politely invited by Mr. A—— to remain at his houſe, till we embarked on board our Greek veſſel, in which

* From Abydus to Seſtus.—See Ovid. Ep. 18 and 19. The diſtance between the oppoſite banks does not exceed five hundred paces; and it was here that Xerxes conſtructed his bridge of boats for the paſſage of his immenſe army.

we

we were to accompany a Mr. V——, a Dutch merchant, removing with his wife and family to Buchareſt.—We propoſed to go by way of the Black Sea, and, mounting the Danube as far as Galatz, to proceed thence to Buchareſt, by land.—This appeared to be a more eligible plan, than encountering the danger and fatigue of travelling on horſeback to Semlin; yet could I poſſibly have foreſeen what time has diſcloſed, I am in doubt whether I ſhould not have preferred the latter route.

Shortly after our arrival at Bujukedere, we waited on Mr. V—— to know when he had determined to embark. He replied, The moment the wind became favourable; but that there was little chance of its changing that night.—After ſuch an anſwer, we went to bed at our uſual hour, with apparent ſecurity.—About two o'clock in the morning, however, we were awakened out

of

of a ſound ſleep, by a violent knocking at our chamber door, and the vociferation of a perſon, with whoſe voice we were totally unacquainted.—I had quite forgotten where I was, and could not conceive the reaſon of ſuch an untimely diſturbance.—At laſt, I thought I heard the name of V——, which brought to my recollection all that had paſſed.—We immediately jumped out of bed, and, haſtily dreſſing ourſelves, ran down ſtairs. We were in a great hurry and very impatient, but as fate would have it, the ſervants were ſearching above half an hour before they could find the key of the ſtreet door.—We were nevertheleſs detained at V——'s a conſiderable time, and did not get under weigh till after five o'clock.

To guard the entrance of the Euxine *, ſeveral

* The Euxine or Black Sea is about two hundred leagues in circuit, and may be compared to an immenſe

ſeveral caſtles are erected on either ſhore, which, if kept in proper repair, and well ſupplied with men and ammunition, might ſet at defiance the attack of almoſt any force. —On the Aſian coaſt, a caſtle was pointed

menſe lake. Many of the largeſt rivers of Europe fall into it; and as the canal of Conſtantinople, which is a very narrow ſtrait, is the only viſible outlet, it has puzzled naturaliſts to account for its ſtationary appearance.—It is the opinion of ſome that its ſuperfluous waters are carried off by means of ſubterraneous channels.—Although we did not find it exactly correſpond with the gloomy deſcription the Antients have given of it, yet, making an allowance for the apprehenſions of the Argonauts and the diſſatisfaction of Ovid, we ſhall not be far removed from the truth. Whilſt we were on it, it was very boiſterous, the ſky was obſcure, and the weather cold.—The whole of this ſea was till lately under the dominion of the Grand Seignor, and no veſſel could navigate on it without his permiſſion. The poſſeſſion of the Crimea by the Empreſs of Ruſſia has, in a manner, deprived him of this excluſive right, and will probably lead to more important conſequences.

out

out to us, which was built after a plan of Baron de Tott.

Till two in the afternoon, I had not felt any diſagreeable effects from the motion of the veſſel; and as I had lately made a long voyage, I was beginning to flatter myſelf that I ſhould eſcape.—Shortly after that hour, however, ſome unfavourable ſymptoms betrayed themſelves, and in the courſe of forty minutes I was ſeized with a deadly ſickneſs, which continued with increaſing violence till three the next morning, when it fortunately began to abate.—Never do I remember to have paſſed ſo wretched a night.—The cabin being ſmall, and V——'s family numerous, there was no birth for us in it, and we were therefore obliged to ſeek for ſhelter elſewhere.—On enquiry, we found that there was no choice, and the only place kept vacant for us was at the head of the veſſel, where there was a hole, (ſcarcely a

fit reſidence for a devil) one half of which was allotted as the temple of repoſe for my brother and myſelf.—When lying, we were ſo cramped for room, that it was quite a labour to turn, and the roof was ſo low, we could not even ſit upright. The only light and air we received were admitted through the opening by which we entered, and which was ſo ſmall, that before ſickneſs had worn us down, and practice rendered us expert, we ran the riſk of ſticking by the way.—Our ingreſs and egreſs that night were perpetual. When I returned, I generally perceived my brother, with his head and ſhoulders out, enquiring, with earneſtneſs, if the weather were mending, and telling me, with a mournful countenance, that he was making preparations for another ſally.—Theſe complicated misfortunes were not a little aggravated by the dreadful noiſe which the ſailors unceaſingly made with their voices and violins.—I abſolutely thought

they

they would have driven me to diſtraction, and I often wiſhed for a little Engliſh diſcipline to keep theſe fellows to their duty, for they were inconceivably lazy, and under no kind of ſubordination.—We would willingly have remained all night on deck; but the ſea (which in theſe parts is generally much agitated) was ſo tempeſtuous, that we ſhould, in all probability, have been waſhed overboard; and the conſolations of hope, you know, diſpoſe one to conſider life as worth preſerving, even under the burden of the deepeſt afflictions. Our ſituation would have furniſhed ſome laughable ſcenes to the pencil of Bunbury; but we were too much weakened, and too immediately concerned, to enjoy them ourſelves.

On the 12th, early in the morning, we paſſed Varna, and often have I lamented ſince, that we did not diſembark there. It is a conſiderable town, and one of the beſt

ports in the Euxine, famous in hiſtory for the battle fought there in 1444, between Amurat and Ladiſlaus King of Hungary, who loſt the victory and his life *.

On the 13th, at four o'clock in the morning, we were within two hours ſail of the principal mouth of the Danube, when the wind ſuddenly changing, and ſhortly after blowing from the oppoſite quarter, we were driven back to a bay called Cavarna †, (a little above Varna) where we were obliged to anchor. The waters of this bay

* This was a ſevere and bloody conteſt. Ten thouſand Chriſtians were left on the field of battle, and the loſs of the Turks was ſo conſiderable, that Amurat confeſſed, that a ſimilar victory would cauſe his ruin. See Gibbon, vol. xii. p. 163.

† Tomis, the place ſo celebrated for the baniſhment of Ovid, was at no great diſtance from this ſpot.—There are, however, various opinions reſpecting its exact poſition.

waſh

waſh the coaſt of Bulgaria *; and here it was that the Ruſſians and Turks laſt year had an obſtinate engagement, and whence the Turks were, in the end, compelled to retreat, but without the loſs of a ſingle ſhip.

As we had all ſuffered much from illneſs, and the Captain was of opinion that the contrary wind would laſt for ſeveral days, we determined, if any conveyance could be procured, to quit the veſſel, and go to Galatz by land.

The Captain told us, that there was a Turkiſh village about half a mile from the ſhore, to which V—— repaired the day af-

* Bulgaria formerly conſtituted a part of the kingdom of Hungary. It was conquered by Amurat II. and has, ſince then, been annexed to the Turkiſh empire.—It contains a few conſiderable towns, of which Sophia is the metropolis, and the reſidence of the Beglerbeg or Viceroy of Romelia.

ter our arrival, not forgetting our firman*. —On his return, he informed us, that he had ſecured ſeveral carts and oxen, which would be ready for us the next morning.—This piece of intelligence was received with univerſal joy, and on the 18th we accordingly diſembarked. I expreſſed a deſire of taking the whole of our baggage with us; but was told that there was not room for our large trunk. I reluctantly left it behind, foreſeeing, in a manner, the misfortunes to which in the ſequel it gave riſe.

The accommodations for travelling in Bulgaria are beyond all deſcription deplorable, and the badneſs of the weather was no ſmall addition to the catalogue of our diſtreſſes; for our vehicles were in ſuch a crazy condition, and ſo open on every ſide, that, notwithſtanding we wrapped ourſelves up

* This is a paper, correſponding to the paſſport of Chriſtian countries.

as

as warmly as poſſible, we were very little protected from its inclemencies.

Theſe vehicles were long narrow carts, without ſprings, and covered with mats, which were quite rotten and full of holes. —In order to be as comfortable as we could, we uſed to lay one mattreſs under us, and cover our baggage (which we piled up behind us, ſo as to make a ſupport for our backs) with the other. We then placed ourſelves ſide by ſide, but were ſo ſtinted for room, that this poſition, although the moſt eligible, was a very unpleaſant one.— —Our driver was ſeated in the front of the cart, between our legs, and was in one reſpect very uſeful; for, being a luſty fellow, he blocked up a conſiderable gap, and excluded no contemptible portion of cold wind. He poſſeſſed, what is ironically called, a plentiful ſtock of modeſt aſſurance, and, whenever he felt himſelf cold, without any ceremony,

mony, would ſtruggle hard to wriggle himſelf into the cart.—Being, however, ſufficiently ſqueezed without him, we never allowed him to ſucceed; but not underſtanding his language, we were obliged, in our own defence, to have recourſe to ſomething ſtill more authoritative and effectual, and to reſiſt his encroachments with our feet.

Our oxen went at the rate of about three miles an hour; and, as they were not changed on the road, they could not travel above ſix or ſeven hours out of the four-and-twenty, ſo that we did not advance very expeditiouſly.—Their owners were not at the trouble or expence of providing or purchaſing any forage for them; but, when they were fatigued, would unyoke them, and turn them out to graze on whatever the country afforded.

Whilſt we were on this road, we had a ſtriking

ſtriking inſtance of the iraſcible and revengeful diſpoſition of the Turks. Two of our guides had had a difference of opinion on ſome trivial ſubject.—The debate ſoon grew warm, and in the courſe of a few minutes they drew their knives, and began a furious attack, which, in all probability, would have terminated in ſome fatal cataſtrophe to the parties, had we not been preſent.—We had great trouble in ſeparating, and much more in pacifying them.

The villages we paſſed through were wretched in the extreme, and plainly demonſtrated the effects of a corrupt and tyrannic government; for although our firman ſecured to us the beſt lodging, which each place furniſhed, we could never expect any thing half ſo comfortable as an Engliſh barn. More than once, we were all obliged to ſleep in the ſame apartment, which was ſo ſmall, that every inch of the ground

ground was covered with our mattreſſes, and we could ſcarcely move, without making invaſions on a neighbour's territories.—There were ſeveral ladies with us, to whom a ſituation of this kind muſt have been very unpleaſant and inconvenient; yet a room thus inhabited, diſplayed a ſcene ſo novel and ſo droll, that the firſt time we were witneſs to it, we could not get to ſleep for laughing.

Whenever we had the good fortune to meet with a fire-place, it was ſure to be in the middle of the room, with a hole in the roof to let out the ſmoke; but which anſwered ſo badly the purpoſe for which it was contrived, that the moment our victuals (when we had any) were dreſſed, we extinguiſhed the fire, preferring to ſuffer from cold, to the riſk of being ſtifled by the groſs vapours which iſſued from half-dried wood.

We

We found the people of the country inhoſpitable ſavages, never yielding any aſſiſtance to us, but when it was compulſory.—Indeed they are ſo accuſtomed to be plundered, that they are dreadfully fearful of ſtrangers, and carefully conceal from them, even the neceſſaries of life.—They poſſeſs, in general, a great deal of curioſity, are much addicted to low cunning, and, when lucre ſtimulates, and opportunity favours, will frequently proceed to open violence.

During the war this unfortunate country was completely drained of its wealth by the Pacha and other people in power, and the contributions which were levied on theſe miſerable villages were altogether aſtoniſhing. One in particular, called Cajarmari, where there are only eight hovels, and where the majority of the inhabitants have only a coarſe ſhirt to veil their nakedneſs, paid, annually, one thouſand piaſtres.

Who

Who can liſten to a tale of ſuch villany and diſtreſs, without giving way to the emotions of indignation and horrour?—Let us not, therefore, attribute that ſavageneſs of character, which I have already remarked, to any natural defect of diſpoſition, but rather to the unrelenting cruelty and oppreſſion of their inſolent rulers: for human nature, when haraſſed by continual aggravation, loſes, by degrees, all its mildneſs and benevolence, and neceſſarily engenders the ſeeds of diſtruſt and revenge.——Though frequently cruſhed to ſubmiſſion, the innate love of liberty ſtill exiſts, and the deluſive perſuaſions of hope will, at intervals, rouſe it to activity.—Anxious for redreſs, and panting, with eagerneſs, for emancipation, if an opportune moment arrive, whilſt the tranſitory flame of irritated paſſions animates the breaſt, we are not to be ſurpriſed, if it endeavour to aſſert its rights, and to retaliate thoſe injuries by which it has been aggrieved.

The country is remarkably level, and but a ſmall portion of it is cultivated. It chiefly conſiſts of paſture land, and produces a little grain, which is of a very indifferent quality. The climate is cold, and muſt be extremely unfavourable to vegetation, for ſcarcely a tree is any where to be ſeen. The cattle, ſuch as horſes, cows, and ſheep, though not abundant, is healthy and ſtrong.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

GALATZ, May 26, 1792.

ON the 18th, at two o'clock, we reached a village on the banks of the Danube, which we, of courſe, concluded was very near Galatz.—Shortly after our arrival, however, as we were congratulating ourſelves on the termination of this irkſome journey, one of our company, who had been chatting with the villagers for the ſake of information, approached, and, with a diſconſolate countenance, told us, that our guides had miſtaken the road, and, inſtead of conducting us to the place which was oppoſite to Galatz, had carried us above forty leagues higher up the river. This intelligence

gence was enough to ruffle, even the calm temper of a Stoick.—Had I been travelling through an intereſting country, I ſhould not perhaps have repined; but, when I conſidered, that I had been traverſing ſome thouſand acres of waſte land; and that I had ſeen nothing but a few ruined villages, inhabited by the ſcum of the earth: when I reflected, moreover, on the loſs of time, and on the fatigue I had undergone, I confeſs that I was thoroughly diſcontented.—Here it was, we had reaſon to lament having left our trunk on board the Greek veſſel: we might, otherwiſe, have croſſed the Danube, and have proceeded to Buchoreſt in a direct line.

Raſſovat (the name of this village) was formerly reſpectable on account of its extent; and the ruins of ſeveral hundred houſes which ſurround it, made me lament its preſent inſignificance. Deſtitute of every thing which

can render life comfortable, it only offers to the view a few huts, correſponding with the manners of their tenants, which hardly riſe above a ſtate of nature. They all appear to be half-ſtarved, and are ſubject to fevers and a variety of other complaints, occaſioned by the badneſs and ſcantineſs of their nouriſhment.—Yet ſo great is the vanity of mankind, and ſo deſirous, in every ſituation, is one perſon of diſtinguiſhing himſelf above another, that even in this obſcure corner of the earth, where one would imagine, from the deſcription, that extreme poverty had levelled all diſtinctions, and cruſhed the aſpiring ſentiments of emulation, children are ſeen, with their caps loaded with pieces of money, whilſt both themſelves and their parents are ſuffering from the denial of food. —Almoſt every ſcene of life is capable of furniſhing inſtruction, and never was the folly of oſtentation more forcibly conveyed to my mind.

After

After an infinite deal of trouble, by the authority of our firman, we at laſt obtained a lodging, which conſiſted of two adjoining rooms, heated by the ſame ſtove. It had not a very inviting appearance; but we conſoled ourſelves with the expectation of a ſound ſleep, and the hopes of recruiting our ſtrength by a ſhort remiſſion from the fatigues of travelling. But when the hour of repoſe came, we found that imagination had been much too fervent, and had been only amuſing us with viſionary ideas; for the rooms, which were thatched with ruſhes, ſwarmed ſo aſtoniſhingly with fleas and muſchetoes, that during the two nights which I paſſed here, I had not ſo much as one hour's ſleep.

Nothing but actual experience can enable one to form any juſt and definite notion of the miſery to which mankind is often ſubjected; nor without the conviction, which

this ſtern monitor uniformly enforces, could I have conceived, that we ſhould one day be reduced to ſuch a deplorable ſituation, as to lament the privation of our hole on board the Greek veſſel, and to confeſs that there were abodes on earth, to which that dungeon was a luxury.

We had with us a fat German woman, whom we had hired at Conſtantinople to cook our victuals; but God knows, ſhe had but little occupation of that kind.—And, in truth, when we had an opportunity of purchaſing any proviſions, they were not much improved by the aſſiſtance of her art: for ſhe was abominably dirty, and there being no kitchen to conceal her operations, we generally knew what we had to expect. I believe ſhe was a great thief into the bargain; for when I came to enquire for my cloak, which I had committed for a day to her care, it was not to be found. About the ſame time I loſt my

my hat, which was another irreparable misfortune, and very ſeverely felt.

The day after our arrival, we took a walk to ſee the environs of this unfortunate village, and, before we returned, made an agreement with the maſter of a Greek boat to carry us to Galatz; for, after the mortifying diſappointment we had met with, we felt no inclination to travel any farther by land.

The face of the country, to the weſt of Raſſovat, is much more diverſified and intereſting than that which we had paſſed through.—In many parts, it is very wild and romantic, and, although but badly cultivated, abounds with agreeable landſcapes. —Some few flocks of ſheep were grazing on the neighbouring mountains.—They produce very fine wool, which is ſpun, and manufactured into a ſtrong cloth, by the in-

habitants.—The Danube adds conſiderably to the life and beauty of the ſcenery. It is very ſerpentine, and is decorated with ſeveral iſlands, which are well ſtocked with timber: but it is rarely that any good fiſh is caught.

The manner in which the people of the country navigate their boats on this river is rather curious.—In each boat there is ſeldom more than one man, who, inſtead of an oar, makes uſe of a piece of wood in the form of a battledore, with a long handle (ſomething like the paddle of the Indians) which he ſhifts about with wonderful dexterity, employing it one moment as an oar, the next as a rudder.—The river being wide, and the ſtream rapid, it was quite an entertainment to obſerve their different manœuvres, when they wanted to gain the oppoſite ſhore. It was a taſk of no ſmall difficulty; and in ſpite of all their ſkill

and

and good management, before they could accompliſh it, they were frequently carried out of a direct line a full quarter of a mile.

In the evening the Governor, who is a Conſtantinopolitan, and an obliging well-bred man, paid us a viſit. He was wonderfully communicative for a Turk, and in the courſe of converſation let us into a great part of his hiſtory. He informed us that beſides this, eleven other villages were ſubject to his authority, and that his principal view in reſiding here, was to induce thoſe inhabitants, whom the horrours of war and the rapacity of his predeceſſor had driven away, to return, and rebuild their houſes; for, in its preſent deſolated ſtate, it yields him ſcarcely any revenue whatever.

On the 20th, to my great joy, we embarked on board our boat for Galatz, which,

had the wind favoured us, we might eaſily have reached the next morning by day-break. But, as uſual, it was directly contrary; and although we were aſſiſted a good deal by the current, before we had proceeded far, it became ſo violent, that the ſailors could no longer manage the boat with their oars. We were therefore obliged to come to anchor.—What followed was in exact uniſon with this ominous outſet, and in this manner we were fruſtrated by Fortune for two tedious days; quitting our anchorage as the wind abated, and having recourſe to it again as it increaſed.—We had advanced ſo little, that we began to apprehend we ſhould be at leaſt a week on the Danube, when, on the 22d in the morning, the ſtorm ceaſing, we took advantage of a dead calm, and, by dint of hard rowing, at ſix o'clock in the evening arrived at Ibrail.

This day was not only propitious to us,

but to the whole Turkiſh empire, for it was the laſt day of the Ramazan, and ſhortly after we landed, a great many guns were fired, and other demonſtrations of joy took place *.

Our ſailors, anxious to participate in the pleaſures of this feſtival, and to celebrate it on ſhore, apprized us of their intention to quit the boat early in the morning. We endeavoured, with all our rhetoric, to diſ-

* The Bairam, which is the Turkiſh Eaſter, ſucceeds the Ramazan. It laſts for three days, during which time the Turks totally diſpoſſeſs themſelves of their uſual gravity, and engage in every kind of amuſement and diſſipation. The ſtreets and bazars and coffee-houſes are crowded, and nothing but mirth and jollity is to be ſeen. Even many of the women, who have been impriſoned the reſt of the year, are allowed to go out on theſe days, and to partake of the general feſtivity. Every good Muſſulman ought, at this ſeaſon, to forgive his enemies, and to diſlodge from his breaſt all uncharitableneſs.

ſuade them from leaving us, but our arguments were vain, for they were pre-determined to go.

Ibrail is a place of ſome conſequence, and the caſtle, which ſtands on an eminence, is commanded by a Pacha of three tails *.

As we purpoſed remaining here all night, I was deſirous of walking up and down the beach till the dawn of day; but being informed that it would be dangerous, as there was a number of villains generally lurking about, I was prevailed on, when it grew dark, to return on board. Sooner, however, than undergo what I had endured the preceding nights from confinement, heat, muſchetoes, and fleas, I laid myſelf down on

* This is a title of very high diſtinction in Turkey. Lances, on the point of which are fixed horſes tails, are carried before the Pachas.

that

that part of the boat which, in the day-time, was occupied by the rowers, with nothing but ſome uneven planks for my bed, and the heavens for my covering; yet, comparatively ſpeaking, this new ſituation was a comfortable one.

That you may form a juſt idea of our ſufferings the two preceding days, I will deſcribe that part of the boat which was allotted to paſſengers.—It was about twelve feet long and ſix wide, and was covered with an awning to keep out the rain.—In this confined ſpace, ſeventeen people, extended on mattreſſes, were deſtined to remain, night and day, in the ſame poſition.—A ſlave captain, who had been torturing his mind half his life, to contrive the moſt convenient and œconomical plan of packing negroes, could not, I ſuppoſe, have ſqueezed us into a ſmaller compaſs; and our ſituation ſuggeſted to me, more than once, the hard fate of thoſe

thoſe unhappy people.—At night, when, to exclude the damp air, it was cloſed at each end, it was juſt like a furnace, and we were abſolutely almoſt ſuffocated with each other's breath.

Our ſailors returned much earlier than we expected them; and on the 23d, about ten o'clock in the morning, we anchored at Galatz, joyful beyond meaſure, as you may eaſily imagine, to be releaſed from our dreadful ſtate of durance, and fully reſolved, that nothing but abſolute neceſſity ſhould prevail on us again to truſt to the uncertainty of a water expedition.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

GALATZ, June 4, 1792.

FROM the time we had quitted our veſſel at Cavarna till our arrival here, we had fared ſo ſcantily (ſometimes taſting nothing, in the courſe of the day, but a cup of coffee, without ſugar, and a ſlice of black bread, as hard and heavy as lead) that we were almoſt famiſhed. The moment, therefore, that we alighted from our boat, liſtening to the admonitions of Nature, we went in queſt of proviſions, and had not walked far, before we eſpied a baker's ſhop. With joy painted in our countenances, we immediately flew thither, and, purchaſing ſome rolls, rubbed over with oil to give them a poliſh,

a poliſh, made a moſt delicious repaſt. I really never remember reliſhing any thing ſo much, which verified the old adage, that "Hunger is the beſt ſauce."

Having ſatisfied our ſtomachs, our next enquiry was after our Greek veſſel, which, as we had been ſo many days coming from Cavarna, we were in hopes had got the ſtart of us; but, to our great ſorrow and mortification, there were no tidings of her.—This buſineſs being alſo diſpatched, we went in ſearch of a houſe, and, in this reſpect, we were much more fortunate, for we met with one, which far ſurpaſſed our expectations. —It had been inhabited by the Ruſſian General, and alſo by the celebrated Prince Potemkin, who remained here a week.—The walls had been lately white-waſhed, and it was divided into ſeveral apartments, in each of which, early in the evening, we ſpread three or four mattreſſes, laid our ſheets, and, after

after having paſſed twelve nights in our clothes, again undreſſed ourſelves.—This, for the firſt night, was ſuch an indulgence, and ſo increaſed my inclination to ſleep, that I even ſet at defiance the depredations of the muſchetoes, which, however, has not been the caſe ſince.—You can ſcarcely conceive how theſe little deſpicable animals torture me. They abſolutely deprive me of half the pleaſures of my exiſtence, and often make me think, what inſignificant beings we muſt ourſelves be, when our comforts are ſo dependent, as to lie at the mercy of a diminutive inſect.

Galatz is the laſt place of conſequence on the ſouthern ſide of Moldavia*, and like moſt of

* Moldavia is on the whole a fertile country, diverſified with hill and valley, and well watered by rivers.—It produces wine and grain, and an abundance of honey and wax. It is governed by a Prince who is appointed

of the other towns in the Prince's territories, has been deſolated by the hand of war.—It was ſurrendered to the Ruſſians about two years ago, after an obſtinate battle, in which the greateſt part of the Turkiſh army (conſiſting of eight thouſand men, ſent by the Porte to inſure a ſucceſsful reſiſtance) was left dead on the field.

When the Ruſſians entered the town, fluſhed with victory, and irritated at the ſtubborn and unexpected oppoſition which

pointed by the Grand Seignor, and is always obliged to pay a very large ſum for his office, which does not however ſecure him in the enjoyment of it; for he is generally depoſed before the expiration of many years. It has undergone ſeveral violent revolutions, and, in the courſe of the laſt two centuries, has been overrun ſeveral times by the Poles and Ruſſians.—The celebrated Prince Cantemir, the Turkiſh hiſtorian, was a Moldavian by birth.—The inhabitants are Chriſtians, and acknowledge the Greek Patriarch.—Yaſſi is the capital, and I am told is a conſiderable city and well-peopled.

had

had been made, they committed cruelties, which would reflect diſgrace on any nation or on any age. Inſtead of teſtifying that reſpect to which a vanquiſhed enemy is entitled, after having nobly fought in defence of its liberties and its country, the licentiouſneſs of the troops was ſuffered to rage without conſtraint.—The four corners of the town were fired; the women were torn from the protection of their fathers and huſbands; many of the inhabitants were wantonly maſſacred; the churches were broken open, plundered, and otherwiſe profaned (ſome of them being turned into butcher's ſhops): in ſhort, every outrage both on decency and humanity was committed, and a ſcene was exhibited too black for any pen to paint.—How ſhocking is war when it is thus proſecuted!—If it be a neceſſary evil, let it at leaſt be deplored as a dreadful alternative, and let not the character of man be

degraded by a barbarous delight in crimes, which ſhould be eſtranged from his heart.

Shortly after our arrival, a Greek accoſted us, and politely offered us his ſervices, which we readily accepted. He has ſince conſtantly attended us, and, being of a very loquacious diſpoſition, he ſoon acquainted us with every anecdote of his life.—During the war he had deſerted his country, and fought under the Ruſſian banners; and he took great delight in boaſting of his achievements, and ſhewing the ſcars which he had received.—Often have I wondered, that his injured countrymen, who ſometimes liſtened to his recital, did not riſe againſt him, and put a period to his inſolence and his baſeneſs, by planting their daggers in his heart.—Though in a manner an unintereſted auditor, I never could bear to hear him dwell on this ſubject. He completely exhauſted

hauſted my patience, and irritated my feelings; for I cannot help deteſting the wretch, who rejoices in the misfortunes of his native land, and is deſignedly inſtrumental in accelerating its ruin.—It is the moſt execrable and unnatural of all crimes, and betrays ſuch a total depravity of heart, ſuch an entire deficiency of honour, generoſity, and ſentiment, that no puniſhment which this world can inflict can be adequate to ſuch atrocious guilt.

This renegado, ſince the ceſſation of hoſtilities, has eſtabliſhed himſelf here as an apothecary, and I fancy his ſtock of knowledge in the art is about equal to his ſtock of medicines, both very ſcanty.—He amuſed us, for the firſt few days, with the relation of ſeveral laughable ſtories; but his fund of wit and anecdote was ſoon exhauſted, (which, by the by, is generally the caſe with ſtory-tellers) and we now find his company

very dull and tedious. He is, however, of a gay and active diſpoſition, and appears to be deſirous of diverting us as much as he can, and ſo far he is certainly entitled to our thanks.

When he perceived that his converſation no longer engaged our attention, he collected a band of fiddlers and dancers, whom he has brought to our houſe very frequently: but I feel ſo little intereſted in this paſtime, that, after their firſt exhibition, I have almoſt always quitted the room. Their favourite dance is this.—About a dozen men and women, placed alternately, form a circle, which, as long as the dance laſts, is never broken. —They make a variety of antic geſtures, and, at ſtated periods, ſtretch out their arms over their heads, footing at the ſame time very clumſily, and making a terrible noiſe with their heels.

Among

Among the muſicians, there is a blind old man who plays on an inſtrument, which, I imagine, is of his own invention, for I never ſaw one like it *. Though not a very finiſhed performer, he is conſidered as the Orpheus of the place, and every body pays him great reſpect.

A few days ago, I viſited the ſpot where the engagement between the Ruſſians and Turks was fought, and where ſo many thouſands of my fellow creatures breathed their laſt.—It is an extenſive plain, bounded on one ſide by a hill, from the brow of which there is an intereſting view that extends, acroſs the Danube, over a large tract of country in Beſſ-Arabia †, which, from its appearance,

* It reſembled a guitar more than any thing elſe to which I can compare it.

† This country is inhabited by the Bujac Tartars, many of whom, like the other wandering tribes, live in

appearance, is tolerably fertile.—A field of battle is always a melancholy ſight. It immediately inclines the mind to a contemplative mood, and furniſhes it with a train of gloomy ideas.—We cannot ſurvey it, without wondering at that ſtrange perverſion of human intellect, or that irreſiſtible impulſe of human paſſion, which, when a diſpute ariſes, prompts us to ſpurn at accommodation, and to aſſert our claim by arms; which hurries us into the ocean of anarchy, diſorder, and guilt, and diffuſes over the face of the earth deſolation, famine and death.—This ſpot was peculiarly calculated to excite ſimilar emotions, for the effects of the ſlaughter were ſtill apparent, and a number of ſkulls and bones were ſcattered

villages which they move about at pleaſure, the houſes being built on wheels. There are, however, ſeveral towns, ſuch as Bender and Belgorod, which are tolerably well peopled.

over

over different parts, deprived of their funeral rites.

When we firſt arrived, the Ruſſians were ſtill in poſſeſſion of Galatz; but, by the articles of peace, it was ceded to the Turks on the 28th of laſt month.—The inhabitants are juſt beginning to recover from their panic, and to rebuild their houſes, the materials of which are wood and plaſter.

One diſtrict of the town is inhabited by Jews, who carry on a confined commerce, and who, as in other parts, when you want to buy any thing, aſk fully the double of what they will take.—What a horrid conſideration, that diſhoneſty ſhould be the moſt prominent feature in the character of ſuch a numerous people!—They meet, however, with their reward, for in every country they are ſhunned and deſpiſed. I was ſurpriſed to ſee, in their ſhops, ſeveral pieces of En-

gliſh ſhalloons, which are brought all the way from Conſtantinople.

The proviſions which the country affords, though in no great variety, are abundant and cheap. Some fiſh is alſo caught in the river, of which we partake every day: but what fiſh it is, I cannot inform you.—All I can ſay, is, that what it wants in flavour, it makes up in ſize, for it is very large and fat. In London it would not perhaps be regarded as a delicacy; but we have been ſo accuſtomed to bad fare, that we are not difficult to pleaſe.

On the 1ſt we took a walk to ſee an extenſive lake, a few miles off, which has a communication with the Danube, and the fiſhery of which is farmed for 700 piaſtres a year *.—Near it, we diſcovered a ſpring

* I bathed in this lake, and was ſurpriſed at its ſhallowneſs.—I walked in near half a mile, and could not find any where above three feet of water.

of

of moſt delicious water, which iſſued from a rock. We collected ſome of it in our hats, and reliſhed it exceedingly; for that which we get at Galatz, as well as the wine, (which is a diſtillation from wormwood, is exceſſively bad.

Our Greek veſſel, which we had been ſo long anxiouſly looking for, only arrived the day before yeſterday. It had been detained at Cavarna, by the contrary wind, a week after we quitted it, and had required the remainder of the time to aſcend the Danube; ſo that, all circumſtances conſidered, we ſhould have been worſe off, had we remained on board.

We dined that day, according to appointment, with the new Governor, who, as far as I can judge, is as little adapted for the office as Sancho was. Still, had he poſſeſſed Sancho's humour, we ſhould have been ſatisfied

tisfied with him, for he would then have amuſed us; but he is as dull an animal as I ever met with. His only recommendation is a plentiful ſtock of *good-nature*, a quality, which, unleſs united with *good ſenſe*, has but few attractions, and can inſure a man, at moſt, but negative praiſe; becauſe it then makes no diſcrimination, and entirely ariſes from want of obſervation and diſcernment. —Almoſt every thing was brought to table which the country and ſeaſon afford:—we ought not therefore to complain of the badneſs of the entertainment; but, what is unpardonable, the linen was ſo dirty, that I could not make uſe of my napkin:—Such are the notions which the Greeks have of cleanlineſs and propriety!—Many diſhes, the materials of which I could not diſcover, were ſerved up, and, when removed, were replaced by others as undefinable. Every thing, indeed, had ſuch a filthy ſlovenly appearance, that, notwithſtanding the profuſion,

fuſion, I loſt my appetite without eating.—The Governor's ſons, out of compliment, waited on us, and, during the time of dinner, ſome muſicians were ſtationed behind us, who were miſerable bawlers and ſcrapers, and had no mercy on our ears.

The Greeks, like the Turks, at meals, do not ordinarily make uſe of knives and forks, and, when they help any body, they tear off a piece with their fingers.—In the courſe of the dinner, I had the mortification of ſeeing ſeveral fowls undergo this barbarous operation *.

In the ſuite of the Greek Governor, there

* A baſon and ewer are always ſent round before dinner, when every perſon waſhes his hands. Where the fingers are made uſe of inſtead of knives and forks, this is a very neceſſary ceremony. At the houſes of people of conſequence, you are preſented with embroidered napkins to dry your hands, after waſhing.

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is a perſon who is appointed to ſuperintend the education of his children, and who, however well calculated he may be for ſuch an office, from the extent of his erudition, as a man of morality, he is certainly very deficient.—This fellow is very fond of cards, and as we frequently play, for want of a better amuſement to beguile the heavineſs of time, when we firſt arrived, he generally contrived to be of the party. But we have detected him in the act of cheating ſo often, that we now decline the favour of his company.—It was, to be ſure, at a round game, at which, even amongſt many individuals in England, I am ſorry to ſay, theſe deceptions are profeſſed to be conſidered as innocent amuſements.—I confeſs, that I never regarded them in that light; and I conceive it to be a very pernicious and derogatory principle, for any one, who has a proper regard for honour or reſpect for himſelf, to lay down that as a rule of conduct, by which he is benefit-

ed,

ed, and another perſon injured. It may be alleged, that the benefit and the injury are of ſo trifling a nature, and are felt in ſuch a ſlight degree by either party, that it is a matter of mere indifference, which is the ſufferer. But if the temptation be ſmall, it may be more eaſily ſuppreſſed, for even in trifles, I do not like to ſee people depart from thoſe ſound and laudable precepts, which, in points of greater moment, would inſure everlaſting infamy and contempt.—Theſe fooliſh diſtinctions certainly tend to vitiate the mind, and to eſtrange it from thoſe rules of decorum and integrity which are the abſolute maintenance of ſociety.—So far, therefore, from giving them encouragement, we ought conſtantly and vigilantly to guard againſt them; and to recollect, that when once the barriers of honeſty and morality are deprived of thoſe watchful ſentinels, which the upright conſcience places over them as a protection,

tection, they are, from that moment, in danger, and may be altogether ſubverted and deſtroyed.—It is not by any ſudden and impetuous ſhocks, that a mind, naturally well diſpoſed, is corrupted; but by thoſe inſenſible and deceitful operations of vice, which wear the maſk of innocence, and gradually inſinuate themſelves into favour; which neither create alarm, nor awaken ſuſpicion, till they have made a fatal progreſs in our affections, and contaminated every motive of action and thought.—The documents of morality are however ſufficiently clear, and it requires no great extent of capacity to prove, or to comprehend, that an act of deception is an act of diſhoneſty. Thoſe, therefore, whoſe ſentiments of honour are ſo undefined and relaxed, as to allow them, without repugnance, to cheat at cards, muſt be of a mean and ſordid diſpoſition; and if they are reſtrained from the commiſſion of crimes of a greater

greater magnitude and a blacker die, it can only be from the dread of chaſtiſement and retaliation.

This day has been employed in making preparations for our departure, which I ardently hope will take place to-morrow; for Galatz has nothing to recommend it, neither the beauty of the country, nor the manners of its inhabitants.—They are all Greeks, and, conſidering the ſhort time which has elapſed ſince their misfortunes, the life which they lead is ſingular. Their chief occupations are ſinging, dancing, fiddling, and drinking. Even thoſe who keep ſhops are ſo addicted to idleneſs, that they ſhut them up very early, and are frequently abſent in the middle of the day.

We did not forget the 4th of June after dinner, but drank the King's health, in a bumper of the beſt wine that we could procure.

procure.—The wine to be ſure was not very capital in itſelf; but the toaſt imparted to it a flavour which enhanced its value. Engliſhmen, whilſt at home, are ſo familiarized with the bleſſings of a good King and a free Conſtitution, that they often appear to be almoſt indifferent about their poſſeſſion; but when they are in foreign parts, where circumſtances are continually ariſing which lead them into inveſtigation, and diſpoſe them to draw compariſons between the advantages which they enjoy and thoſe which obtain in other countries, they feel a new train of ideas enlighten the mind, and a new train of emotions warm the heart; and when any particular day arrives which places theſe various ſenſations in a full point of view, and calls them into the plenitude of action, they are as much ſurpriſed at their paſt apathy as they are delighted with their preſent ſenſibility.—One of the great advantages indeed which accrue to Engliſhmen

gliſhmen from travelling is, that, if they have any obſervation whatever, they are always forcibly impreſſed with the ſuperiority of their own government, and always return to their native land with an additional partiality and veneration for thoſe laws, which ſecure to them the invaluable treaſure of liberty, and inveſt them with privileges which no other modern people have had the ſpirit and perſeverance to contend for, or the good fortune to acquire.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIX.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

BUCHOREST, June 14, 1792.

IT was neceſſary to make ſo many preparations for our journey from Galatz, that we did not get away till late on the 5th.

Our waggons formed a very reſpectable caravan.—They were twelve in number, and were drawn by ninety horſes *.—We had twenty poſtillions to conduct them, and

* Mr. V—— tranſported a conſiderable quantity of merchandize from Galatz to Buchoreſt, which was the reaſon of our having occaſion for ſo many waggons and horſes.

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one of the Prince of Moldavia's officers, who had been ſent to us on application, attended us as far as Fokſhan, where we arrived on the 7th in the evening.

This route was conſiderably out of our way; but V——, whoſe hopes were always very fervent, had imagined that the Prince would defray his expences, and, on that account, had inſiſted on this irrational plan.—He found, however, when an explanation took place, that he had been miſtaking in his calculation, and I was a good deal gratified, when I heard of his diſappointment.

The road, leading from Galatz to Fokſhan, is, on the whole, tolerably good; but the villages we paſſed through are miſerable in the extreme, and have all ſuffered more or leſs from the inhumanity of the Ruſſian troops. The inhabitants are wretchedly

clothed, and the only proviſions, with which they could ſupply us, were bad bread and a few eggs.

We found the climate very cold and inconſtant, the weather generally changing two or three times a day.—The face of the country, in moſt parts, reſembles that of Bulgaria, being very level, badly cultivated, and conſiſting chiefly of paſture land.

On the 7th, in the morning, we croſſed the Serret, and ſtopped to dine at a village called Surai, which, though compoſed of but a few huts, poſſeſſes a ſituation that does credit to the taſte of its founder.—Near it there is a delightful little wood which produces a great variety of wild flowers, ſome of which I collected, and will ſhew them to you on my return. I think you will admire them as much as many of the plants

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in our hot-houſes, which are reared with ſo much care, and cultivated at ſo great an expence.

Fokſhan is a large borough, and is remarkable for ſtanding in the two principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.—A rivulet, which runs nearly through its centre, forms the boundary of theſe two provinces, whoſe princes regard each other with mutual jealouſy, and exact the moſt rigid obſervation of their reſpective prerogatives.—As an inſtance of this: If a man in one diſtrict commit any crime whatever, and, by paſſing the rivulet, can make his eſcape into the other, before the magiſtrates can ſecure him, his perſon is inviolable.—This, it muſt be owned, is a moſt ridiculous and impolitic cuſtom, the more eſpecially as the two provinces, though not under the ſame government, appertain to the ſame empire.—Even

if they were not united by any ſuch cloſe connection, the obſervance of a privilege ſo immoral in its tendency, and ſo miſchievous in its conſequence, would be ſtill liable to much reprobation.—It might in ſome meaſure be extenuated; but it could not be juſtified; for no country ſhould hold out an encouragement to vice, by affording it protection; but, on the contrary, ſhould exert its utmoſt power and influence in bringing to juſtice that offender, who has violated his duty as a citizen, and grievouſly tranſgreſſed againſt the laws of ſociety.

Fokſhan is alſo an intereſting ſpot, on account of a battle which was fought within its walls laſt September, between the Germans and Ruſſians on one ſide, and the Turks on the other.—The Turkiſh army had been ſent by the Porte to defend the place, and conſiſted of 80,000 men, who were

were totally routed by the united forces of the enemy, whoſe numbers did not exceed 30,000.

When one recollects the undaunted valour diſplayed by the Turks on many former occaſions, it certainly, at firſt view, appears ſurpriſing, that they ſhould be overpowered, with ſuch an enormous proportion of bodily ſtrength in their favour.—The page of hiſtory records ſufficient examples wherein, even with an inferiour force, they fought and conquered. And perhaps the ſame valour, which then inſured them ſucceſs, ſtill exiſts; but it is not exerted with the ſame advantage: for, whilſt the other nations of Europe have been making progreſſive and continual improvements in tactics, the Turks, blinded by inſurmountable prejudices, have wilfully deſpiſed theſe advancements, and have continued to rely on their natural reſources. But experience ſufficiently informs

us, that Nature may almoſt always be aſſiſted and forwarded by the efforts of art; and perhaps in no inſtance is ſhe ſo dependent, as in the contingent events of war.—The operations of a ſkilful General will, frequently, more than counterbalance the diſparity of numbers. Ever on the watch, he obſerves every movement and foreſees every plan of his adverſary, and what the ſinews of his ſtrength cannot reſiſt, his judgment will counteract, or his ingenuity evade.

The firſt onſet of the Turks few troops can withſtand; but that violent effervescence of ſpirit is ſoon exhauſted; the havoc of the enemy's artillery is felt; and they often retreat as ſuddenly and with as much precipitance as they engage.—When this once happens, the day is loſt; for conceiving then, that their defeat has been ordained by fate, they can ſeldom be induced to rally.

I neglected

I neglected to mention in its proper place, a circumstance which occurred on our journey to Rassovat, and which diverted us very much.—One day, whilst our oxen were grazing, a wrestling match took place between two of our guides.—It was no sooner proposed, than our heroes consented to display their strength and agility.—In a minute they were stripped, and the contest began; and as they both possessed nearly the same powers, it was a very keen one.—Both the champions seemed to exert themselves with all their might, and to dispute the prize of honour with very high notions of its value. —They were, however, so well matched, that notwithstanding the convenient hold which was furnished by the immensity of their breeches, (for, in spite of the fashionable phrase, it would certainly be a perversion of terms to call them *small-clothes*) a long and obstinate contest ensued, before one of the opponents was overset. The fortune of the

the day was then decided, and, parting friends, they reaſſumed their gravity, returned to their reſpective occupations, our oxen were again yoked, and we proceeded on our journey.

Fokſhan, for Turkey, is a neat town, and the country, which ſurrounds it, is diverſified and fertile. On the Walachian ſide, which is in a high ſtate of cultivation, there is a mountain, at the diſtance of about four leagues, on which ſuch a prodigious quantity of wine is grown, that although it is ſold at the low rate of two paras* the oke†, and the Prince claims but ten per cent. on the groſs amount, it yields him an annual income of 100,000 piaſtres.—This luxuriant ſpot alſo furniſhes abundance of excellent timber, which is an article of extenſive

* A para is a little more than a halfpenny, twenty of them making a ſhilling.

† An oke is $2\frac{3}{4}$lb. Both wine and oil pay duty by the weight.

traffic,

traffic.—It is carried in boats to Galatz, and thence in larger veſſels to Conſtantinople, where it is bought up for the purpoſe of making maſts.—The Ruſſians are the principal purchaſers and conſumers of the wine.

On the 9th, in the morning, a Pacha of three tails, who had been long expected, paſſed through this town.—He entered it with great pomp, attended by about ſix hundred horſemen, with colours flying, and muſic playing, amidſt the ſilent and ſolemn admiration of the trembling inhabitants.—His band of martial muſic was compoſed of drummers and fifers, and a few players on the cymbal, whoſe chief merit conſiſted in making a great noiſe; for they were neither expert performers, nor were the airs, with which they indulged us, diſtinguiſhed for any thing but their inſipidity.—The carriages, which contained his women, were

cloſely

cloſely covered, and ſupported by mules, to which they were faſtened by the means of long poles.—He himſelf was ſeated in a clumſy coach, and had all that marked contempt and ſelf-ſufficiency in his countenance, which want of merit generally imprints.—To compliment him, the Chriſtian ſtandards were diſplayed, and a great crowd of people was collected to do him homage. He had been three weeks on the road from Buchoreſt, diffuſing horrour, and exciting concealed deteſtation, wherever he paſſed.

This wretch is inveſted with the power of life and death, which he never allows to ſleep; but exerciſing it according to the fluctuations of his intereſt, he alternately renders it the inſtrument of miſery and deſtruction. Unacquainted with the dictates of mercy and benevolence, no appeal to humanity is liſtened to; but prerogatives which,

which, if unabuſed, and impartially adminiſtered, might extend the bleſſings of proſperity and peace, are made ſubſervient to the moſt brutal paſſions, and are, by the total diſmiſſion of mildneſs and juſtice, converted into the ſcourges of the human race.

Yet what can be the enjoyments of the moſt abſolute deſpot?—He may, it is true, inſpire fear; he may enforce ſubmiſſion; he may deſolate a country, and ſatiate his cruelty or his revenge by the diſtreſſes of its inhabitants; he may plunder without reſiſtance, and torture without reproof: all this, nay more, he may accompliſh with impunity.—But can happineſs be derived from the practice of vice or the diffuſion of woe? Is there no ſuch thing as an accuſing conſcience? Is there no ſuch ſenſation as mental diſquietude?—Can a man fly from the bitter reproaches of his heart? Can he arreſt the hated activity of his thoughts? Can he completely

pletely extirpate the ſentiments of feeling, and deaden the operations of reflection?—No!—Theſe various principles will, at times, intrude, and inform him how baſe, how mean, how deſpicable he is.

How the falſe luſtre of ſuch a ſtation is obſcured by the virtues of the honeſt, upright man; whoſe good offices are proportioned to his means; whoſe boſom is warmed with the pure emotions of generoſity; who glories in the extenſion of benevolence; and who knows no pleaſure ſo exquiſite, as that of imparting conſolation and relief!—*His* happineſs is uniform; *his* ſatisfaction is ſolid; and although not clothed with the purple, or armed with the authority of tyrants, he poſſeſſes the love, the eſteem, the veneration of his fellow creatures.—O Greatneſs! profit by the example of thoſe whom you conſider as your inferiours; be convinced that you are no more, in the eye of God,

God, than other men—learn therefore moderation, and practiſe virtue.

During our reſidence at Fokſhan, we received ſeveral viſits from the Governor of the Moldavian ſide of the town, who is a polite well-bred man, and afforded us every aſſiſtance in his power.

One of the evenings, whilſt we were detained here, we went to a Greek chriſtening. The father and other relations of the child had previouſly waited on us, to beg our attendance, and alſo, to ſolicit Madame V—— to ſtand godmother; to which ſhe immediately conſented. The ſervice laſted about an hour. It was performed, in the literal Greek, by one of the Papas or Prieſts, who read with great ſolemnity; and, in point of form and ceremony, it reſembled very much the Roman Catholic ſervice on theſe occaſions.—The chief difference is, that the

Greek

Greek ritual requires immerſion * inſtead of ſprinkling, and the poor little innocent had a complete ducking. To a variety of other names †, that of Madame V—— was ſubjoined.

On the eve of our departure, one of the Prince of Walachia's officers arrived, who, ſupplying the place of the Moldavian, attended us to Buchoreſt.—The principal uſe of theſe officers, is to procure you lodgings wherever you paſs the night; for, in this part of the world, there are no inns, and without their intervention you might apply for ſhelter in vain.—They, however, ma-

* It is the opinion of many that immerſion, in the primitive ages of the church, was univerſally practiſed, and that ſprinkling in baptiſm originated in cold countries, a long time after the firſt eſtabliſhment of Chriſtianity.

† The Greeks conſider a number of names as a mark of diſtinction.—Thoſe who are in a menial capacity have ſeldom more than one or two.

nage matters without much ceremony, for, being authoriſed by the Prince to turn any perſon out of his houſe, the unfortunate exile never ventures to diſobey the ſummons. —I confeſs that my heart revolted at being obliged to have recourſe to this barbarous privilege; and although we always endeavoured to ſatisfy the ejected tenant by the gift of ſome money, I ſtill thought it a hard lot to be reconciled to, and could not help deploring the neceſſity of the caſe.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XX.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

BUCHOREST, June 16, 1792.

WE left Fokſhan on the 9th, and, towards the evening, reached Tirkukoli, which is ſuch a miſerable village, that my brother and I, after ſearching in vain for a lodging barely decent, were forced to abandon the point, and to paſs the night in an open carriage.

Whilſt we were here, our compaſſion was excited to a very high degree.—About an hour after our arrival, juſt as night was ſetting in, and we were chatting over our adventures, we ſuddenly ſaw a ſtrong light. We immediately ran out, when we diſcovered

vered that it proceeded from a houſe, at ſome diſtance, which was on fire.—We felt ourſelves intereſted on various accounts, and were determined, if poſſible, to reach the ſpot.—We accordingly ſet out on our expedition, and, croſſing over ſeveral fields and ditches, arrived in time to be witneſſes of a ſcene of conſummate horrour and deſolation.

The houſes, in this part of Turkey, being built of wood, and thatched with ruſhes or ſtraw, are entirely compoſed of combuſtible materials; and the inhabitants not being furniſhed with engines or any proper machines for the conveyance of water in caſes of ſuch extremity, the ravages of fire are generally dreadful.

When we arrived, the flames were ſpreading very rapidly, and the miſerable tenants were making their eſcape through the door

and windows, in the utmoſt confuſion.—They only had time to ſave *themſelves*.—All the little comforts (and God knows they are few enough) which they had perhaps been treaſuring up for years, fell a ſacrifice to the fury of this inſatiable element.—The women, with ſcarcely any clothes to cover them, for they had been alarmed from their beds, were half frantic. Some of them had their infant children in their arms, and were protecting them, as well as they could, from the cold.—Thus aſſembled, they ſat on the bare ground cloſe to each other; and whilſt they kept their eyes fixed alternately on the flames and their children, they bewailed the horrours of their fate, and made the air reſound with the moſt piercing ſhrieks.—I think I never in my life beheld a more intereſting group. It was capable of awakening ſenſations of pity and ſympathy in the hardeſt heart that ever beat.—We can ſurvey, with a certain degree of compoſure, the

the misfortunes of thoſe, who have reached the ſeaſon of maturity, and are endowed with ſtrength to contend againſt the ſtorms of fortune; but when women and helpleſs children are placed before our eyes, without protection, and invoking the clemency of God to ſave them from deſtruction; when we ſee the ſentiments of nature prevail, after the dictates of reaſon have nearly loſt their influence; when we behold a mother, in a ſtate of diſtraction, ſtill obeying the more powerful ſway of inſtinct, and, whilſt the mind is abſorbed by the contemplation of horrour, the heart is employed in fulfilling one of its tendereſt and moſt eſſential offices; it is as impoſſible to dwell on a ſcene of ſuch complicated affection, anxiety and diſtreſs without emotion, as it is to reſtore life when every pulſe has ceaſed to vibrate. —The men, however, diſplayed more firmneſs, and were very actively employed in pulling down a houſe, which was removed

a few yards from that on fire.—This method ſucceeded, and probably ſaved the remainder of the village from deſtruction.

Both my brother and I, commiſerating the hard lot of theſe unfortunate ſufferers, offered them money; but whether they could not underſtand our intentions, or miſtook us for Ruſſians, from whom they have ſo lately experienced every calamity, I am at a loſs to ſay; but they poſitively refuſed all pecuniary relief, and turned from us with viſible ſigns of perturbation and dread.—Under theſe circumſtances, as we were ſeparated from our guard, we thought it prudent to retreat.

On the 10th, we dined at Ribnik, which is delightfully ſituated in a rich country, abounding with wood and fine paſturages.

This place, before the war, was a conſiderable

derable town, conſiſting of ſix or ſeven hundred houſes, which the Turks, previous to their departure, from mere wantonneſs, reduced to about fifty.—Can you, my friend, imagine an injuſtice, a baſeneſs, a cruelty, ſuperiour to this?—The very contemplation of ſuch conſummate iniquity, muſt raiſe a flame of indignation and reſentment in every honeſt breaſt!—Oh! how deſpicable does human nature appear, when we ſee ſtrength triumphing over weakneſs, and practiſing barbarity and oppreſſion, only becauſe no riſk is incurred, and no reſiſtance can be made! To a mind of any ſentiment whatever, that depravity of heart which propels a people to ravage and deſtroy, without pity or remorſe, its dependent territories, is quite inexplicable.—Yet, however extraordinary, it is ſtill a truth, that both in Moldavia and Walachia, during the whole of the late war, the Turks were more dreaded than either the Germans or the Ruſſians: and not

without reaſon; for in every place in which they were quartered, they have left ſignal marks of their avarice and brutality.

It was our intention to have croſſed the Buſeo this evening, and to have ſlept at the city of that name which is on the oppoſite ſide; but the heavy rains, which had fallen the two preceding days, had ſo ſwollen the river, that it was not fordable, and we were obliged to paſs the night in a Boyar's * houſe which, a few months before, had been entirely diſmantled by the Turks, who, as a token of their contempt, had uſed it as a ſta-

* The Boyars are the nobility, or rather the landholders of the country. They have a great deal of power, and make a very bad uſe of it.—The hopes of one day obtaining the government of their country is an unceaſing ſpur to their ambition and their extortion. They are continually tampering with the Porte, and are generally engaged in cabals and intrigues againſt the reigning Prince.

ble,

ble. The whole village of Marachini near which it ſtands, as well as its inhabitants, belongs to the eſtate, and when it changes maſters, they are transferred with it, like other common goods and chattels.—Thus you ſee, in this unfortunate country, the moſt objectionable and odious part of the feudal ſyſtem is allowed to retain its primitive force.

Shortly after our arrival at Marachini, not chooſing to truſt entirely to the reports of the villagers, in order to ſatisfy myſelf about the real ſtate of the river, I took a walk to its banks, which were at the diſtance of about a mile. But I found it as they had repreſented it.—On my return, I was ſuddenly caught in a violent ſhower of rain, and was obliged to take ſhelter in a mill. I was in the Engliſh dreſs, and had a hanger in my hand, without which, indeed, I never venture to go out alone. The miller and his

his men ſeemed to be very much ſurpriſed at the ſudden appearance of a ſtranger, thus habited, and thus armed.—They however behaved very civilly, allowed me to warm myſelf at an excellent fire, and, when I left them, one of them attended me to the door.

In the morning early, we began our preparations for fording the Buſeo, which was an undertaking of no ſmall difficulty.—Its banks are very ſteep and ſandy, and it branches into ſeveral ſtreams, whoſe currents were ſo impetuous, that moſt of our waggons, notwithſtanding they were ſupported, on each ſide, by ſeveral men, narrowly eſcaped being overſet.

Having a letter of introduction to the Governor of the city, on our arrival, we were politely received by him, and he ordered a dinner to be immediately prepared for us.

He

He informed us, that a few years ago, there were in Buſeo upwards of two thouſand houſes, and that it had been reduced to its preſent ſituation (which is that of a contemptible village) by the Turks, who, before they quitted it, ſet it on fire, and plundered the inhabitants.

As ſoon as he heard that we were Engliſhmen, he launched out in praiſe of our country and its manufactures, and lamented that none of them, particularly fire-arms (of which the Greeks as well as the Turks are paſſionately fond), were to be procured at Buſeo.—My brother, fortunately, had with him a pair of Engliſh piſtols which had been made for Turkey, and which, although not of ſuperiour workmanſhip, were calculated to pleaſe the Governor of a Greek town.—What he had ſaid had ſo flattered our nationality, that our generoſity was awakened, and we immediately begged his acceptance of

of them. He heſitated at firſt, but, ſtrongly urging our ſolicitations, he at length complied.—He felt the full force of the compliment, and deſirous of making ſome compenſation, he inſiſted on ſending us forward to Buchoreſt in his own carriage with ſix horſes, and hoped that, by returning to Buſeo at ſome future period, we ſhould afford him an opportunity of teſtifying his gratitude.—Notwithſtanding his importunity, we perſiſted in declining his offer, till he yielded; and I ſhall conſider myſelf unfortunate if I am ever in a ſituation to require the hoſpitality, which he ſo liberally proffered.—I do not, however, conſider myſelf leſs obliged to him, for no man could have behaved with greater urbanity and politeneſs.

Going hence to Aformatzi, we traverſed a fertile and agreeable country.—The high mountains, which are the boundaries of the

the Turkiſh and Hungarian dominions, are ſeen at a diſtance, and form the limits of ſeveral enchanting proſpects.—For the laſt ſeven or eight miles, the road winds through a delicious wood, where I frequently deſcended from our waggon to gather wild flowers, which ſpring up in great abundance and variety.

My principal motive for remarking Aformatzi, is not on account of its conſequence (for it is but a ſmall village, conſiſting of huts) but becauſe there is near it a ſpacious manſion (where we ſlept) which was built, for the reception of travellers, by Prince Ipſilanti, a man highly and deſervedly celebrated in this country, for ſtrength of underſtanding and benevolence of heart.

This Prince reigned nine ſucceſſive years over Walachia, and, by the vigour and purity of his government, acquired univerſal love

love and eſteem.—The Turkiſh court, which is uniformly actuated by the vileſt policy, at laſt became jealous of his abilities, and, dreading the conſequences of his popularity and his riches, thought proper to remove him.—Since then, he has lived on his own eſtate, as a private gentleman, ſtill however continuing to beſtow his bounty on all, and applying the honourable fruits of his adminiſtration and his labours, in relieving the wants and alleviating the diſtreſſes of his fellow creatures.

What a misfortune to any country, muſt be the loſs of ſuch a Prince; but, more eſpecially, when the government is abſolute, and the will of the Sovereign is its law! for then, the fate of the ſubject is entirely dependent on the qualities of the ruler; happy or miſerable, flouriſhing or diſaſtrous, as his diſpoſitions and talents are good or bad.

If

If human nature were perfect; if the heart of man were always regulated by reaſon and juſtice; and never enſlaved or corrupted by paſſion; of all others, an abſolute government would certainly be the moſt deſirable and the beſt; for juſtly, diſcreetly and wiſely adminiſtered, it is capable of communicating the greateſt degree of happineſs.—Such a government, regulated by an able and virtuous Prince, muſt renew the felicity of the Golden Age; for, deſiring the honour and welfare of his people, and perceiving in what they muſt conſiſt, he has alſo the power of conferring them.

As we approached Buchoreſt, our poſtillions, at times, made great exertions, and drove us a very good pace. I often wondered, how they contrived to manage our waggons ſo well, for ſome of them were

drawn by eight or ten horſes, which were placed three, and ſometimes four, abreaſt: and the reins and harneſs, which were chiefly compoſed of cord, were always entangled.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

TOUR ROUGE, June 21, 1792.

ABOUT two o'clock on the 13th, after a pleaſant journey from Aformatzi, we arrived at Buchoreſt, which is the capital of Walachia and the reſidence of the Prince *.—It is pleaſantly ſituated on

* Formerly the Princes of Walachia reſided at Torgoviſt, which is about thirty miles to the north-eaſt of Buchoreſt, and is a conſiderable city. In thoſe days it was regarded as the capital of Walachia.—The Princes of Walachia are alſo ſtyled Hoſpodars, and, by the Poles and Ruſſians, Waywodes, a word of Sclavonian origin, ſignifying a Governor or General.

the brow of a gently riſing hill; is contracted in breadth, but extended in length; and, from the many trees which are interſperſed among the houſes, has a good deal the appearance, as you approach it, of an overgrown village.—Some of the houſes are of wood; but they are chiefly built of brick, which is plaſtered and whitewaſhed, and, inſtead of boards, their floors are of brick. —All the ſtreets are laid with thick planks, which traverſe them from one ſide to the other, forming a kind of perpetual wooden bridge, which is expenſive, diſagreeable and inconvenient, but has been adopted on account of the nature of the ſoil, which will not bind, or admit of a firm foundation.—Many of theſe planks have a great elaſticity, ſo that, when you are in a carriage, you are frequently toſſed about in the ſtrangeſt manner imaginable, and the clouds of duſt, which fly from them on a windy day, are a dreadful annoyance.

When

When I inform you that the number of large churches alone, amounts to 360 *, you will naturally infer that all the inhabitants are prieſts.—A great proportion of them, I believe, is; but although they wear the outward garb of religion, they are, by all accounts, far from diſtinguiſhing themſelves, either by their devotion or morality, from the common herd of mankind.—Theſe churches are, in general, heavy ſtructures, and the walls being covered, both within and without, with glaring uncouth paintings, repreſenting the Greek ſaints and different parts of eccleſiaſtical hiſtory, they have a very gaudy and inelegant appearance.

All the rich Boyars reſide here in the winter, and ſome of them live in great

* I did not count them myſelf; but ſeveral people aſſured me that this number was not exaggerated.

ſplendour.—As a proof of the haughtineſs of their notions, it is conſidered as ungenteel, and quite inconſiſtent with their dignity, to be ſeen in the city on foot, ſo that every perſon, who can afford the expence, keeps his carriage.—The number and variety of vehicles, which are conſtructed for the indulgence of this luxury, are quite incredible, and many of them are very elegant and coſtly. They however build ſcarce any of them at Buchoreſt, but purchaſe them chiefly in Hungary or at Vienna.

Some of the ſtreets are wide and regular, and the Bazar, which is a ſpacious building, is well furniſhed with merchandize.

On the 15th we took a ride to ſee the environs of the city, and in our way ſtopped at a kioſk, belonging to the principality, a place only worth noticing on account of its ſituation, which is extremely pleaſant, and commands

commands an extenſive view over a fine champaign country.

From this kioſk we drove to a public walk, where we found a number of people of both ſexes collected, enjoying the coolneſs of the evening air.—We immediately alighted from our carriage, and joined them; but I was not much gratified, for I believe all the hideous women of Walachia were aſſembled on this ſpot.—An ugly face, a miſhapen perſon, and unpoliſhed manners, appeared to be united in each, and they much more reſembled the witches in Macbeth, than the lovely and amiable part of the creation.—We immediately attracted their notice, and they gathered round us that they might examine us more minutely. —Had we been thus encircled by the charms of grace and youth and beauty, I ſhould then, in return, have gazed at them, till I had been loſt in admiration and de-

light: but theſe unfortunate nymphs were not calculated to inſpire any ſuch emotions, and we were very glad to avail ourſelves of an early opportunity of returning to our carriage, and haſtening home.

On the 16th we dined at the Ruſſian Conſul's, who feaſted us ſo ſumptuouſly, that I could ſcarcely help imagining I was either at Paris or London. We ſpent a very agreeable day, for we had not only an excellent dinner but excellent wine, and, what is ſtill better than either, excellent converſation.—After a journey through an uncivilized country, one feels a great ſatisfaction in the ſociety of polite and accompliſhed perſons. Their converſation and their manners recall to the mind a thouſand pleaſing images, and, as it were, renew our acquaintance with thoſe habits in which we were bred.—The Ruſſian and the German Conſuls are at preſent the only two gentlemen

men eſtabliſhed here in a public capacity, from any of the European courts.

Monſ. C——, the Prince's firſt Secretary, a gentleman of information and poliſhed manners, who had, from our firſt arrival, ſhewn us every civility and attention, being very deſirous that we ſhould ſee his Highneſs's court before we left Buchoreſt, we, according to appointment, went with him in the morning on the 17th.

As we had not been formally introduced, it was the *etiquette*, on our entrance, to notice nobody.—His Highneſs, in a rich Grecian dreſs, was ſeated on a ſofa, with his two ſons on his right hand; and the Biſhops and Nobles were ranged, according to their precedence, on his left.—A great deal of reſpect and ceremony was obſerved, but it was not a day of much buſineſs.—Some diſpatches were read, and a few petitions pre-

ſented, whilſt the Prince was drinking his coffee, and ſmoking his pipe, which was of cherry wood, above ſix feet long, with an elegant bowl, and a lip of amber.—Every body paid him the moſt obſequious deference, and, whenever he opened his lips, a profound ſilence reigned throughout the hall.—Before we retired, he ordered his Secretary to beg the favour of our company to drink coffee with him in private, after the levee. So courteous an invitation was not to be rejected. We accordingly waited on him at the appointed time, and were received with all the politeneſs imaginable.—We had not been ſeated long, when ſeveral attendants entered, and, after offering us pipes, preſented us with coffee * and ſweetmeats, which

* The Turks and Greeks have a particular method of preparing their coffee. After it has been roaſted, inſtead of grinding it, they pound it in a mortar, and they always boil it on the grounds of coffee that has been

which were both of an exquiſite flavour.—By means of his Secretary (who ſpeaks French with fluency and elegance) he entered into converſation with us. He paid us many handſome compliments as Engliſhmen, and ſuſpected that after having viſited the moſt civilized and flouriſhing kingdoms of Europe, we could derive but little advantage or ſatisfaction from travelling through Walachia.—This was a natural and a rational remark, and, although I did not tell him ſo, I gave him credit for the ingenuouſneſs with which it was made. He lamented ſeveral times, with apparent ſincerity, the ſituation of his own country, which had ſo lately been the ſcene of rapine and

been uſed. They drink it frequently, in the courſe of the day, and always preſent it to viſitors. Their cups, which are very ſmall, are generally of fine porcelain, and are placed in a ſecond cup of gold or ſilver, elegantly emboſſed, or worked in filigree. In theſe articles the rich go to an aſtoniſhing expence.

bloodſhed,

bloodſhed, and hoped that his exertions would ſhortly reſtore it to happineſs and plenty.—I really admired him for his ſentiments and his good ſenſe. If every Prince thought thus, and allowed his thoughts to guide his actions, what an additional ſum of felicity would be enjoyed by the maſs of mankind!

A few minutes after we withdrew, he ſent his Secretary to us with two general letters; one to the Poſtmaſters, ordering them to furniſh us, through his dominions, with ſix horſes, at his own expence; and the other, addreſſed to the Governors of the cities we were to paſs through, recommending us to their particular notice, and deſiring them to give us every aſſiſtance in their power.

The Princes of Walachia * are appointed

* They receive their inveſtiture by a ſtandard and veſt, which are preſented by the Sultan.

by

by the Porte, and it requires an immenſe ſum of money to obtain this mark of diſtinction. In addition to this, the Grand Seignor claims an annual tribute, which, with the various contingencies of bribery, to which it is neceſſary to attend, at a court where corruption is the ſource and ſoul of power, ſwallows up a great part of the revenue of the principality.—Within their territories they are abſolute, and can levy troops, impoſe taxes, and enact laws at pleaſure.—When, however, the Grand Seignor is engaged in hoſtilities with any foreign power, they are obliged to raiſe men, and to join the Ottoman forces, like the vaſſals of the feudal times, who were bound to follow and defend their Lord Paramount.

They, in general, keep a ſplendid court; but as the palace (which was a ſpacious and magnificent ſtructure) was burnt, during the war, the preſent Prince is obliged to

take up his reſidence in a monaſtery, and to live in a more retired manner.

The court of the Princeſs is quite diſtinct from that of the Prince, and at her levees no gentlemen are admitted, except on ſome particular days, which very ſeldom occur.

The revenue of the principality amounts, annually, to about 5,000,000 piaſtres, above one half of which is claimed by the Porte; the remainder is allotted to the Prince, to defray the expences of his government, and to enable him to maintain a ſplendour, ſuitable to the importance of his office and the dignity of his rank.

The principal productions of the country are wax, wool, grain and wine, with which a conſiderable trade is carried on to Conſtantinople, and different parts of Hungary and Ruſſia. The wheat which this country

produces is black, from which it derived the Turkiſh name Carabogdana, which ſignifies the *Land of Black Wheat.*—In ſome of the mountains there are extenſive gold mines, and pieces of gold, of a very pure quality, are frequently found in the ſand, on the banks of the large rivers.—The climate is good, and the ſoil very luxuriant; but it is badly cultivated, and a great proportion of it is totally neglected.—This, however, is not to be wondered at, and muſt ever be the caſe, where the ſubject is unprotected, and entirely dependent on the will of the ruler: for what man can be expected to exert his ingenuity, or to diſtinguiſh himſelf for his induſtry, when he is uncertain by whom the fruits of his labours will be reaped?

But what in this country, more particularly extinguiſhes every ſpark of emulation, and creates diffidence and alarm, is its frequent

quent change of maſters.—In general, the Princes are only appointed to the government for three years *, during which time, their grand object is to enrich themſelves as much as poſſible, that they may not only recover what has been diſburſed for their ſtation, which is always purchaſed; but alſo, that they may amaſs a ſufficiency of additional wealth, to be able, by bribery, to ward off the blow which frequently ſucceeds their depoſition, and which is nothing more or leſs than the loſs of their heads.—Such is the award which commonly awaits thoſe who riſe to poſts of eminence in Turkey! Yet, notwithſtanding the perils with which

* They are ſometimes continued in the government beyond this period, though they are more frequently depoſed before its expiration. A candidate, who has plenty of money; will part with it freely; and promiſe to the Porte a larger tribute than the reigning Prince pays, has generally ſufficient weight to occaſion his diſmiſſal.

this high office is ſurrounded, it is ſought after with the keeneſt avidity: a proof how readily we are enticed on to ruin by the inſignificance of ideal advantages, and how eaſily we are blinded in our conjectures of more diſtant events, by the animating, yet deceitful, proſpect of immediate or approaching enjoyment.

But if the appointment were for life, theſe views would ceaſe, and theſe fears would vaniſh. It would then be the intereſt of the Prince to promote the happineſs, and advance the political conſequence of his people, and, by encouraging agriculture and commerce, to inſure and perpetuate a regular and increaſing revenue.

The preſent Prince, however, is much beloved, and has the character of being a very worthy, nay even a patriotic man.—Though not poſſeſſed of the talents, in point of goodneſs

neſs and benevolence of heart, he reſembles his predeceſſor Ipſillanti, and, in conſequence of his popularity, is ſo apprehenſive of the machinations and intrigues of the Turkiſh Court, that he judges it neceſſary, for his ſafety, to open all the letters, which are ſent from Buchoreſt to Conſtantinople.

A number of Hungarians, Saxons, Armenians and Jews are eſtabliſhed in different parts of Walachia, and, poſſeſſing much more enterpriſe and perſeverance than the natives, what commerce the country, in its preſent impoveriſhed and exhauſted ſtate, admits of, is chiefly carried on by them.

The natives, however, are proud of their origin, which they trace from the antient Romans. It is a pity but this pride ſhould animate them to achieve ſomething worthy of ſuch a noble anceſtry.

Having

Having purchaſed a carriage, and provided ourſelves with a ſervant, who underſtands the Walachian and Hungarian languages, on the 18th we took our leave of V—— and his family, who propoſe ſettling at Buchoreſt.

Till we reached Peteſti, we only paſſed through miſerable villages, where we could procure no other proviſions than eggs, bad bread and ſour wine, and even theſe articles were carefully concealed, till the payment was ſecured.—The road to this place, without being much indebted to art, is tolerably good, and the poſtillions drove us remarkably well. The country is undulated, and, in ſome parts, mountainous; but is very fertile, and abounds in wood and rich paſturages.

At Peteſti, which is a ſmall town, pleaſantly ſituated on the weſtern ſide of the river Argis, we paid a viſit to the Governor,

who, according to the faſhion of the country, preſented us with coffee and ſweetmeats; and, when we took our leave, his ſervant followed us to the carriage with a cheeſe and two loaves of bread, which we accepted without any ceremony.—Notwithſtanding this munificent preſent, we purchaſed, in addition, a few eatables at a ſhop; a precaution which, when opportunity permitted, we had for ſome time paſt punctually adhered to, and which the conſideration of what we had formerly endured, ſeemed fully to authorize and enjoin.

The duſt, which the horſes, as we went along, kicked up in clouds, had ſo ſoiled our clothes, that, when we preſented ourſelves to the Governor, we muſt have had more the appearance of pedlars than of gentlemen, and he eyed us ſo narrowly, that I have often thought ſince, he had ſome ſuſpicion we were impoſtors.—The propriety, however,

however, of changing our dreſs did not occur till it was too late; but, determined not to experience a ſecond time, at leaſt that day, the embarraſſment to which it had ſubjected us, whilſt the horſes were putting to, at the next ſtage, we ſcampered into a neighbouring wood, where, ſcreened from public view by the thickneſs of the trees, we adonized ourſelves from top to toe.—It was, indeed, to ſuch places as this that we had been generally obliged to repair, when we wiſhed to change our clothes, for we could ſeldom procure above one apartment, which we of courſe gave up to the ladies.

Leaving Peteſti, the road for ſeveral miles is very mountainous, and is afterwards continued through a beautiful wood, abounding in a variety of large well-grown trees, and preſenting ſome of the moſt lively and pictureſque views that I ever beheld.

On the 19th we arrived on the banks of the river Alt, but too late in the evening to croſs, and were obliged to remain in our carriage all night, at a ſmall village on the eaſtern ſide.—We paſſed over it the next morning at day-break, in a ferry-boat, and then drove on till we came to Rimnic, which is a large and handſome town.—As, however, we only ſtopped there whilſt our horſes were changing, you cannot expect that I ſhould enter very minutely into its hiſtory. Had it not been ſo early in the morning, we ſhould certainly have paid our reſpects to the Governor.

On the 20th, about four o'clock in the afternoon, we reached Kineni, where we preſented a letter, from the Prince of Walachia's Secretary, to the Vataf *, who received us with great reſpect, and regaled us

* A Vataf is an Officer belonging to the Cuſtoms.

with

with bread, eggs and wine.—The road from Rimnic to this place is ſo mountainous, that we judged it prudent to deſcend ſeveral times from our carriage.

We had made many enquiries on the way, whether or no we ſhould have any quarantine to perform, on entering the Emperor's dominions, and had always been anſwered in the negative.—You may, therefore, conceive our mortification and ſurpriſe, when, on our arrival at the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge, we were ſtopped, and told that we could not proceed any farther, before the expiration of ten days.—On explanation, we found it was not our reſidence in Walachia, but our viſit to Conſtantinople, which ſubjected us to this penalty, nor could any one inform us what ſtay in Walachia would have entitled us to paſs without detention: a ſufficient proof of the abſurdity of the regulation.—We ſhould, I

believe, have contrived to eſcape, had it not been for the ſtupidity of our ſervant, who, the moment the particulars of our route were enquired into, blundered upon Conſtantinople. Till then, our fate was in ſuſpenſe; but the moment the name of that infected city * twanged in the ears of the officer who examined us, (who was a ſtiff German, with a great deal of pride and very little ſenſe) he turned up his noſe, and ſaid, he need aſk no more queſtions, for we could not poſſibly be ſuffered to go any farther.

The road from Kineni runs over ſome ſteep mountains, and, in many parts, is very narrow and rugged, and bounded on the right by tremendous precipices, which render it extremely dangerous.—The romantic beauty of the country compenſated, how-

* Conſtantinople is never quite free from the plague.

ever,

ever, for the riſk we ran. We were almoſt always in ſight of the river Alt, whoſe current is very rapid, and we paſſed three monaſteries which are delightfully ſituated on its banks, but which have remained tenantleſs ſince the war.

We had frequently, in the courſe of this long and tedious journey, particularly before our arrival at Buchoreſt, heard of bands of robbers, who infeſted and deſolated particular diſtricts. But, if there were any truth in theſe reports, we were certainly fortunate, for none of them ever moleſted us.——One morning, indeed, after we left Fokſhan, the ladies were rather alarmed by the ſudden appearance of five horſemen, who, they inſiſted, muſt be free-booters.—But theſe apprehenſions ſoon ceaſed; for they turned out to be poor inoffenſive fellows, who were travelling like ourſelves, and had perhaps been harbouring the ſame ſuſpicions

againſt us, which, as we were by far the moſt numerous party, might much more naturally ariſe.

In a few words I can give you a deſcription of the place of our confinement.—It conſiſts of about a dozen white-waſhed houſes, ſtanding in a bottom, and encompaſſed, on every ſide, with high mountains, which are thickly clothed with trees.—The river Alt winds through a valley at the back of the lazaretto, and, at the diſtance of about a quarter of a mile on each ſide, there is a gate at which a few ragged ſentinels are ſtationed, and which forms the boundaries of the ſpace, allowed to thoſe who are under quarantine. We alſo have the privilege of wandering on the mountains, ſo that, compared with other places of the ſame nature, the confinement is not very ſtrict; but it is ſtill confinement, and that is ſufficient to create diſguſt.

Were

Were I at liberty, I ſhould perhaps be deſirous of ſpending a few weeks here, for I ſuppoſe it is one of the wildeſt ſpots that is any where to be ſeen; but compulſion and impriſonment will depreciate and obſcure the beauties of the moſt delightful and intereſting ſcenes.

If you could have a peep into our room, I think you would be a good deal diverted with our contrivances.—It is both bed-room and ſitting-room (for we are only allowed one), and is totally unprovided with furniture, having neither bed, table, nor chair.—When I firſt entered, I aſked, where we were to ſleep? and the fellow ſurlily anſwered, *There*, pointing to ſome planks, which are raiſed a few feet from the floor, and extended along one ſide of the room.

Depending on procuring every kind of comfortable accommodation, when we once

got into the dominions of a Chriſtian Emperor, in order to diminiſh the bulk of our baggage, we had left our beds at Buchoreſt. —Others were not, however, to be procured here; and to make as good a ſubſtitute as we could (there being no ſtraw in the village) we ordered our ſervant to purchaſe a large bundle of hay, which is laid on the planks, and toſſed out, at night, in the ſhape of two beds with bolſters. We then ſpread our ſheets, (which we have fortunately preſerved) and, inſtead of blankets and quilts, we cover ourſelves with wearing apparel.— But, in ſpite of all our care, our beds are very uncomfortable, for the hay gets through the linen, and, whenever we move, ſcratches us like pins, ſo that it is impoſſible to get any ſound ſleep.—A few hours after our arrival, a fellow obliged us to open all our trunks, and to have the contents (in order to purify them from the plague) ſuſpended on pegs round the room.—They are hanging

ing there ſtill, and give it the exact appearance of a pawn-broker's ſhop.—When we dine, we make uſe of the planks on which we ſleep, as a table, and our trunks turned on their ſides, are our chairs.—But what is ten times worſe than all this, we can ſcarcely get any thing to eat, and what little we do get, is ſo bad, that nothing but abſolute neceſſity could force it down our throats. —I hope, when I next write you, I ſhall be able to give you a better account of our comforts.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XXII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

LAZARETTO OF TOUR ROUGE,
June 29, 1792.

THANK God! our quarantine terminates with this day, and to-morrow we ſhall be at liberty to proſecute our journey to Vienna.

When I tell you that thoſe misfortunes, of which I ſo bitterly complained in my laſt, have, with very little intermiſſion or alleviation, been continued till now, you may eaſily conceive that we have not ſpent our time very agreeably.—Had it not been for the pleaſant ſociety of Monſieur M——, a French officer of our acquaintance, who arrived here but two days after we, I believe that the few ſparks of gaiety which

which ſtill animated us, would have been ſoon extinguiſhed, and we ſhould have ſunk under the burden of our numerous vexations.—As it was, we contrived to laugh now and then, and the recollection of our ſufferings was frequently driven away by the pleaſures of cheerful converſation.

Our proviſions, for the firſt four days, were not only infamouſly bad, but ſo ſcanty, that we really were almoſt ſtarved; and, determined, if poſſible, to procure ſome relief, I forwarded a letter of recommendation to Monſieur M——, a gentleman at the head of the cuſtoms at the town of Tour Rouge, which is diſtant but a few miles, and he very politely waited on us the following day.—I never in my life recollect meeting with a perſon who, on a bare letter of recommendation, before he was at all acquainted with me, treated me with ſuch cordial kindneſs

and

and civility. He made us an entire offer of his ſervices, and begged, that, whenever we were ſtraitened for proviſions, we would acquaint him. We conſidered theſe, at the moment, as mere words of compliment. They however turned out otherwiſe; for the next morning, he ſent his ſervant with a baſket of proviſions from his farm, and a very polite meſſage, begging that we would do him the honour of calling on him, as we paſſed through Tour Rouge in our way to Hermanſtadt.—From this time our fortune began to mend, and the ſucceeding day we purchaſed a young roe-buck of a peaſant for eighteen pence; but it was made ſo dry and hard by being badly dreſſed, that we could ſcarcely eat it.—Another time, we bought a lamb for ſix-pence. It was not to be ſure much larger than a hare, and the man had the ſkin, which, being black, was by far the moſt valuable part of the animal.

mal *.—When we were in want of wine, we were obliged to ſend to a place three or four miles off; but it was execrable ſtuff, and kept us very ſober.

A poor fellow, who has a boat on the river, has been out a-fiſhing every day ſince we have been here; but he is very unſucceſsful, having only caught one ſmall fiſh, which he reſerved for us.

We are now in the Emperor of Germany's dominions.—I will not, however, totally abandon the ſubject of Turkey, without giving you ſome account of the cuſtoms and manners of its inhabitants. Not that I propoſe entering into any elaborate or minute detail; but, merely by delineating the

* They generally cover the Kalpak, which is a cap much worn in Turkey by the Armenians, with black lamb-ſkin. If the wool be fine and of a good colour, it will ſometimes fetch a conſiderable price.

leading

leading and prominent features, I ſhall endeavour to convey to your mind a juſt notion of their general character.

This vaſt empire is inhabited by four diſtinct races of people, viz. the Turks, the Greeks, the Jews, and the Armenians.

The Jews are much more numerous than the Armenians; but, as the firſt betray exactly the ſame characteriſtics which diſtinguiſh them in other parts of the globe, and as there is nothing particularly remarkable or intereſting in the habits of the ſecond, I ſhall confine my obſervations to the Turks and Greeks.

With the origin of the Turks you are already well acquainted; and it would be ſuperfluous, whilſt I am addreſſing myſelf to you, to enumerate the various cauſes which combined to render them not only a reſpectable

able but a formidable nation.—But that vigour and perſevering activity which, at the beginning of their hiſtory, ſhone forth ſo conſpicuouſly, and which, at one time, were tearing up every obſtruction which checked the progreſs of their arms, have, long ſince, totally diſappeared.—At preſent, they are an enervated, a ſuperſtitious, an ignorant and a ſluggiſh people; the declared enemy of the arts and ſciences; and the firm oppoſer of every uſeful inſtitution.—Too ſtupid to comprehend, or too proud to learn, or too infatuated to be convinced, although they are ſurrounded on almoſt every ſide by civilized and enlightened nations, their attachment to opinions which are founded in folly, and upheld by prejudice, does not diminiſh.

When we conſider what a long period of time has elapſed, ſince the light of reaſon firſt began to diſpel the thick cloud of igno-

rance which darkened the face of Europe, and, by degrees, to rouſe, to inform, to refine, and to illumine the underſtanding of man, we are aſtoniſhed that this people ſhould have remained ſtationary, and, in ſpite of the influence of example, ſhould ſtill be guided by an unſhaken adherence to their former notions and errours.

Whilſt we are making the remark, we feel inclined to inveſtigate the cauſe whence ſuch a blind, deep-rooted veneration originates.—Is it occaſioned by the natural diſpoſition of the people?—Surely not.—Does it then ariſe from the vices of a government, which is peculiarly framed to deaden the faculties of the mind, and to eradicate the feelings of the heart?—Much may, no doubt, be attributed to its influence; yet that wonderful degree of mental apathy and bodily indolence, which they have gradually allowed to overwhelm them, appears to me

to

to be principally derived from a ſtill more potent ſource.—It is the ridiculous doctrines of their religion (engrafted in a moment of enthuſiaſm, and cultivated and ſtrengthened by the impoſing arts of ſucceeding ages) which, though firſt uſed as an inſtrument to excite, have been ſince employed as an engine to cruſh the reſtleſs propenſity of man.

The firm belief of predeſtination, which is a principal article of faith, and one of the indiſpenſable duties of a Muſſulman, is, perhaps, the moſt powerful political machine, which ſtupidity ever ſubmitted to, or craft ever deviſed. Whether obedience is to be inſured, or ſedition promoted, it is equally calculated to impoſe on the credulity of the multitude; and to the prevalence of this abſurd tenet, many of the revolutions, which have happened at Conſtantinople, may be traced.

A Turk regards every occurrence of his life with the ſame torpid indifference; and, being fully perſuaded, that no exertion or prudence can prolong his happineſs, or avert his deſtruction, it very frequently happens, that neither the proſpect of ſecurity, nor the approach of danger, can animate his perceptions, or awaken him from his lethargy. —Grave and uncommunicative, rather from habit than from nature, as if the pleaſures of ſociety were totally eſtranged from his breaſt, he trifles away his life in the liſtleſſneſs of indolence and inactivity; and, as if entirely ſeparated from the concerns of the world, and unintereſted in the welfare of his ſpecies, he ſcarcely fulfils one duty which can render him ſerviceable to his fellow-creatures.—If he reads the Coran a ſpecified number of times; prays at ſtated hours, either at home or at moſque, five times a day; and conforms to a few of the poſitive ordinances of his Prophet; he imagines

gines that he has diſcharged every thing which is either requiſite or important, and that, as a recompenſe for ſuch exact and ſcrupulous obedience, he has ſecured, in a future ſtate, the endleſs and voluptuous enjoyments of his ideal paradiſe.

Superſtition, which is the mother of the ſtrangeſt abſurdities and contradictions, notwithſtanding the fataliſm of the Turks, diſpoſes them to celebrate eclipſes with extraordinary ſolemnity.—If one happens to occur during the night, they are rouſed from their ſlumbers by the cries of the Muezzins; and, on hearing the ſummons, they inſtantly riſe; repair to their moſques; and, by vows and ſupplications, endeavour to avert the menaces of ſuch an alarming omen. How eaſily might theſe ſtupid fears be removed by a little knowledge in aſtronomy! But ſuperſtition and ignorance muſt ever go hand in hand.

Their religion is ſupported at an immenſe expence.—Its miniſters, of whom the Mufti is the head, are innumerable; and the revenues of ſome of the royal moſques amount to the almoſt incredible ſum of 60,000l. ſterling. The Mufti is appointed by the Grand Seignor. He is Sovereign Pontiff, expounder of the law of Mahomet, and ſupreme director of all religious concerns.—He is regarded as the oracle of ſanctity and wiſdom; and having an extenſive authority, both over the actions and conſciences of men, his office is one of the moſt dignified and lucrative in the empire.

The Turks are very proud, which is one great cauſe of their gravity and their taciturnity. Laughter and familiar converſation are, in their ideas, derogatory from dignity. They affect to hold, in thorough contempt, the Greeks, the Jews, the Armenians and

and the Franks, whom they abuſe in the ſtreets, calling them infidels and chriſtian dogs.—The Greeks are oppreſſed by them in numberleſs ways; and as for the poor Jews, they are the objects of ſuch complete obloquy and ſcorn, that they are buffeted, and plucked by their beards, wherever they are met.—In ſome few reſpects, however, the Turks are well-meaning, hoſpitable and charitable.—The beſtowing of alms, is one of the principal duties of their religion, and there are various inſtitutions, in different parts of the empire, for the relief of poor Muſſulmen; for the erection and maintenance of hans or inns for the accommodation of indigent travellers; and for enabling the needy to perform their pilgrimage to Mecca, Medina and Jeruſalem, which pious expedition every believer in the faith of Mahomet is bound to undertake, at leaſt once in the courſe of his life *. They

* The pilgrims for Mecca ſet out from Conſtantinople

They are alſo very careful of their domeſtic animals. Of their horſes they are paſſionately fond; and ſuch is their reſpect for dogs, that at Conſtantinople there is a public charity for their ſupport.

Their ſeminaries, for the inſtruction and enlargement of the human underſtanding, are not very numerous. They would ill accord with the principles of a government, which can only laſt in proportion as ignorance prevails. Yet there are, both at Conſtantinople and Bruſa, royal colleges, where the ſtudents are inſtructed in Arabic and the knowledge of the Coran. This is all the

nople in a caravan in the month of May, and repair to Damaſcus, where they join the other pilgrims from Natolia and Aſia. Afterwards they unite with thoſe that come from Perſia, and from Egypt, and other parts of the Ottoman empire. The whole number commonly amounts to 60,000 pilgrims." See Habeſci's Preſent State of the Ottoman Empire, p. 96.

ſcholars

ſcholars are permitted to learn, and all the maſters have the wiſdom to teach.

Friday, among the Turks, is more reſpected than any other day in the week, becauſe they believe it was on that day, Mahomet fled from Mecca to Medina.

In their perſons, independent of their dreſs, they are cleanly, their religion enjoining frequent ablutions; and, for the convenience of the public, fountains are erected on all the principal roads of the empire.—Theſe ablutions are, indeed, ſo often repeated, that the punctual obſervance of them muſt be very troubleſome, and, in many inſtances, highly unneceſſary and ridiculous; yet the Turks, in this reſpect, are very conſcientious.—But whilſt they are ſo exact and pertinacious in attending to the outward forms and ceremonies of their religion, its eſſence and ſpirit are, in moſt caſes, neglected;

glected; and whilſt they rigidly obſerve what they might with innocence omit, they openly violate what it is criminal to diſobey. —Unfortunately for the world, this reproach is, I fear, applicable to every other country as well as Turkey; for ſuch is the folly and fallibility, or the perverſeneſs and obduracy of human nature, that the moſt ſacred obligations are very frequently, either openly infringed, or artfully evaded, when they are repugnant to our ideas of happineſs, or inconſiſtent with our views of pleaſure, convenience or profit.

The uſe of wine is ſtrictly forbidden by the Coran, and the Turks, to elude the intention of this inconvenient prohibition, are obliged to have recourſe to the following equivocation.—They affirm, that rum, beer and other liquors, which are diſtilled or extracted from grain, as they are never mentioned by their Prophet, do not come within the

the meaning of this law; and that, therefore, they may drink them without any impropriety, or the riſk of incurring his diſpleaſure.—Truly, as if the ſpirit of the law were directed againſt any particular liquor, and not againſt every liquor, which has a tendency to produce intoxication, and, with intoxication, a numerous train of additional evils.—How willingly men wander in errour, when knowledge is a reſtraint on their inclinations; and how ſedulous are they to ſatisfy their conſciences, at the expence both of intellect and truth! Many, however, do not attempt to conceal what theſe frivolous ſubterfuges are unable to palliate; and, when they have an opportunity, will drink wine, as well as rum and beer, in pretty large doſes. It is, even, not unuſual with the porters and packers, when they have been working for you, to adopt the Engliſh cuſtom, and to aſk for a few paras to drink your health; and, in times of war, the

the ſoldiers * are often ſeen reeling about the ſtreets.

But the moſt horrid and deſtructive kind of inebriation, is that which is occaſioned by the uſe of opium.—There is a place at Conſtantinople, where the opium-eaters aſſemble every evening, and where each man takes his doſe of this drug, which ſoon be-

* In times of war, the licentiouſneſs of the troops is unbounded. They oblige the merchants and ſhopkeepers of the country, to ſell their goods at a third of their value, and will frequently take them without paying any thing: and if theſe poor wretches preſume to complain, they are puniſhed with inſtant death. But, in theſe days, examples of this kind are not rare among Chriſtians. The French, wherever they have been, have purſued this barbarous ſyſtem; and their footſteps have been marked with pillage, confiſcation and ſlaughter.—The general want of diſcipline and ſubordination in the army is, however, a certain indication of the weakneſs of the government. It is a proof that its very exiſtence is dependent on the ſoldiery.

gins

gins to operate on his brain, and to produce there, the luxurious dreams of ideal happineſs, and the animating illuſions of inſpired fancy.—But as the effects of the opium ſubſide, the laſſitude and languor of life creep heavily through the veins, and pervade and unhinge the whole ſyſtem.—Theſe debauchees carry with them the marks of their intemperance. Their limbs are emaciated; their features are cadaverous and diſtorted; and their very countenances betray them to be the ſlaves of beſtial appetite and ſenſuality.

Amongſt the various religious ſects in Turkey, the Derviſes are the moſt remarkable and the moſt ridiculous. They are notorious hypocrites, pretending to be entirely devoted to the ſervice of God, and practiſing, at the ſame time, without compunction, every act of infamy and atrocity.—Theſe monks make vows of auſterity, obedience and

and chaſtity, which they break without ſcruple.—They live together in monaſteries, ſubordinate to the regulations of a Superiour; but many of them are great travellers, and, under pretence of zeal for the propagation of their faith, they work on the ſuperſtition of the people, and obtain conſiderable donations.—Their principal convent is at Cogni (the antient Iconium) in Natolia, where the General of their order reſides.—Mevelava, one of the Sultans of that city, was their founder.—There are ſeveral kinds of Derviſes. Some go begging from door to door (making no diſcrimination between Turks and Chriſtians) pretending to be dumb; and endeavouring to excite your compaſſion, by diſtorting their features, and diſplaying a thouſand antic geſtures; as if religion conſiſted in the practice of thoſe indecencies and abſurdities, which nothing but a total deprivation of reaſon can excuſe.—They affect the extreme of miſery, and go with their

legs and ſtomachs bare, wear coarſe woollen next their ſkins, and a kind of blanket is negligently thrown over their ſhoulders; imagining, like many of the monks in Chriſtian countries, that if they, in this reſpect and a few others, ſubmit to ſelf-mortification; if they voluntarily encounter, and by their perſeverance overcome, hardſhips which other men more wiſely avoid, they ſecure to themſelves, in the next world, a ſtate of endleſs beatitude.—Would theſe bigots lay aſide their fooliſh and unavailing notions, and practiſe that kind of mortification which is at preſent unknown to them, and which conſiſts, not in ſack-cloth or in partial ſtripes and faſting, but in the purification of the heart by punctually fulfilling their real duties, they might then be uſeful and worthy members of ſociety.—There is another ſect of Derviſes ſtill farther removed from any thing rational.—Their chief occupation is in dancing with a few of their brethren,

to

to the ſound of the flute and other muſical inſtruments, and turning round till they are quite exhauſted, and can no longer endure the fatigue.—They have a bonnet of camel's hair on their heads, and a leathern girdle round their waiſts, from which their garment hangs downward, like a woman's petticoat. The velocity of their motion, when they are wheeling round, makes it fly out, and produce a very droll effect.—I have often ſeen the fine dancers at our opera, ſet themſelves a-going in the ſame manner, and make juſt as ridiculous an appearance.—Theſe poor, miſguided, infatuated wretches frequently keep turning round for ſuch a length of time, that they at laſt drop ſenſeleſs on the floor with exceſſive exertion, when they are ſeized with vomiting, and ſpitting of blood.——They pretend that their founder Mevelava kept turning round, without ſtopping, for fourteen days (whilſt his companion Hamſa played on the flute) after

ter which, he fell into ecſtacies, and received ſurpriſing revelations concerning the eſtabliſhment of his order.—It is out of reſpect to his memory that they continue to dance to the ſound of the flute.—They faſt every Thurſday till after ſun-ſet, and, on Tueſdays and Fridays, they aſſemble before their Superiour, and, after hearing a ſermon from him, at a ſignal given, their exerciſes begin, which ceaſe, and are renewed ſeveral times, before they ſeparate.—Many of theſe monks are mountebanks, practiſe legerdemain, and profeſs to be ſkilled in ſorcery and magic.

The Turks are very fond of cheſs, which is a game that correſponds with the gravity of their tempers. An anecdote was not long ſince related to me, which proves, at once their partiality for this amuſement, and their indifference about matters of much higher concern.—An Aga had incurred the diſplea-

ſure of his Sovereign, and the warrant for his execution arrived, whilſt he was engaged at cheſs. The game was nearly over, and he begged the officers, who were the meſſengers of his fate, to delay the ſentence for a few minutes, that he might have the ſatisfaction of beating his adverſary. His requeſt was granted; and, when the game was finiſhed, he thanked them for their civility and condeſcenſion; kiſſed the order which deprived him of life; and ſubmitted, with the greateſt compoſure, to the ſtroke of the executioner.

The precarious poſſeſſion of property generally makes men cautious and avaricious. They are afraid to live in ſplendour, or to ſpend their money freely, leſt, by ſhewing what they have, they ſhould excite the ſpirit of extortion and rapacity in the breaſts of their ſuperiours.—Thus the Turks, as they amaſs

amaſs riches, to ſecure them, conceal them in the moſt ſecret places, and frequently bury them under ground.

They are very abſtemious in eating, making but one hearty meal a day, which is towards the evening. They do not uſe knives and forks; but roaſt their meat very much, and tear it in pieces with their fingers. They always waſh their hands, before and after every meal.

In their perſons, they are rather robuſt, of a very dark complexion, and are, in general, a handſome race of men. Yet the inertneſs of their minds gives them a heavy countenance, and the gravity of their manners imparts an unpleaſant formality and ſtiffneſs to their features.

Their dreſs conſiſts of a cloſe veſt, over which they wear a ſhort jacket, which is covered with a long looſe robe. Their breeches reach down to the middle of the leg,

and hang about them like a ſack. Their ſtockings are very ſhort, and their ſlippers are of Morocco leather, (generally yellow) a ſock of which is worn over the ſtocking. —When they ſit on a ſofa, leſt they ſhould ſoil it, they always take off their ſlippers, and keep on their ſocks. Many of them wear no linen next the ſkin. It is only the rich who can afford this indulgence.—They ſhave their heads, except a little tuft which is left on the crown. Their beards, they ſhave or let grow indifferently.—But the grandeſt part of their dreſs is the turban, which none but Muſſulmen are allowed to wear. All their taſte and fancy are diſplayed in this article of apparel, and they make them of endleſs variety and ſhape.—Thoſe of the opulent are compoſed of fine muſlin or linen; but the poor content themſelves with a coarſe ſtuff which is manufactured in the country.—The deſcendants of Mahomet, by his daughter Fatima, are

are alone permitted to wear green, which diſtinguiſhes them from the other Muſſulmen. They are called Emirs, and were at firſt all deſtined for the church; but their number rapidly increaſing, they have, long ſince, been obliged to have recourſe to other employments to get a livelihood. Mule drivers and people in the loweſt capacity are now frequently ſeen with this badge of honour, and they are very proud of the diſtinction. —It is dangerous for any to aſſume it who are not of the blood of the Prophet; and if a Frank were to enter the Turkiſh quarter of a city, in a green coat, he would run the riſk of being torn to pieces.

With regard to the women, you muſt depend on the accounts of others, as no man, but he to whom they belong, is ever permitted to ſee them.—As, however, I have mentioned them, I ſhall beg leave to add, that my ideas of their happineſs are totally

oppoſite to thoſe of a juſtly celebrated female writer *; and, I think, that by a reference to the ſtrongeſt principles of our nature, the force and propriety of my opinion may be eaſily eſtabliſhed.

In a country where a plurality of wives is authorized by law, and where one man, in addition to this licenſe, is alſo permitted, without any breach of the morality which he has been taught, to immure in his haram † as

* Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

† The Haram is the term given to the apartments in which the women are confined.—They are always in a retired part of the premiſes, and are ſurrounded and ſecured by lofty walls. They are ſaid to be, in general, fitted up with ſplendour and taſte. Before them, are ſpacious areas, which are partly paved with marble, and decorated with fountains, ſhrubberies and parterres of flowers. They have large doors and windows, and are extremely well ventilated. The haram is ſtrictly and vigilantly guarded by Eunuchs, and no man, except

as many female ſlaves as his purſe can purchaſe, the ſex muſt infallibly be tyrannized over, and degraded. It is deprived of its natural rights. It is denied its natural protection. It is forbidden the chaſte enjoyments of reciprocal friendſhip and love. It is robbed of its dignity and its honour, which are its brighteſt attractions. It is compelled to pay obedience to a wretch whom it deſpiſes, and, whilſt it deſpiſes, to

cept the maſter, is allowed to enter. Locks and bolts cannot, however, confine the inſtincts of nature, and the women, with the aſſiſtance of the Jews, contrive to carry on many intrigues, particularly at the ſeaſon of the Bairam, when they are often permitted to go to the public baths, and even to walk about the ſtreets.—I have been ſpeaking, all along, of the women belonging to the rich, for the higher the quality of the perſon, the cloſer the confinement. The women of ſhopkeepers and people of that deſcription are not watched by Eunuchs, and go to the public baths three or four times a week. The maſter of the houſe could not afford the expence of ſuch an attendance, or of baths at home.

ſubmit to the gratification of his luſt.—Can any thing be more unjuſt? Can any thing be more horrible?—Are theſe the ſuggeſtions, the dictates of Nature?—No!—They are an abandoned perverſion of her pureſt, her mildeſt, her moſt valuable ſentiments.—They are a ſhameleſs, inſulting tyranny, achieved by the powerful and ſtrong over the weak and helpleſs: and, whatever is ſo wide, ſo revolting a deviation from thoſe propenſities and principles, which Nature has, with her own hand, in diſtinct and indelible characters, written in our hearts, cannot poſſibly be productive of any thing but hatred, diſcontent and miſery.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

TOUR ROUGE, June 29, 1792.

THE Greeks are a much more lively and induſtrious people than the Turks, yet I am at a loſs to determine whether, on the whole, their character be more conciliatory or meritorious.

The only qualities, which have been tranſmitted to them from their anceſtors, are cunning and deceit, which, by continual practice, and by applying them to the various tranſactions of life, they have perhaps extended and refined.

They

They are extremely loquacious, and, when they addreſs you, are as fertile in geſtures as in words.—Their paſſions are ſtrong, and their diſpoſition is compoſed of a ſingular contrariety of affections; for they are, at once, cheerful and ſullen; irritable and obſtinate; revengeful and capricious; and they paſs through the moſt diſtant tranſitions of temper with wonderful celerity.

Although totally unacquainted with the powers of harmony or the rules of compoſition, they are paſſionately fond of muſic, and moſt of them ſing, and play on ſome muſical inſtrument. But their airs, for the moſt part, conſiſt of ſuch a ſtrange ſucceſſion of diſcordant notes, without even the wild melody of nature to recommend them, that I never derived any pleaſure from the efforts of their ſkill.

There is another peculiarity in the diſpoſition

ſition of a Greek, which I cannot forbear mentioning.—If you chance to ſtand in need of his aſſiſtance, it frequently happens that he is not inclined to grant it, and when this is the caſe, no perſuaſion nor any moderate recompenſe can prevail on him to ſerve you; but he will ſtubbornly perſiſt in a denial till you have recourſe to violence, blows being the only arguments which prove efficacious. They have no idea of honour or generoſity, and their great aim is to overreach you by artifice and falſehood.

The Greeks employ themſelves in the contracted branches of commerce, but they have not the capacity to purſue it on an enlarged and liberal ſcale. They are, in general, very avaricious, and their thirſt after money frequently hurries them into ſpeculative plans, which are beyond their comprehenſion, and finally the cauſe of their ruin.

When

When in any office of authority, they ſhew as great a diſpoſition for pride, extortion and tyranny as the Turks.—They openly violate every principle of juſtice and humanity, and commit acts of the moſt iniquitous and atrocious villany, without compunction.—They are univerſally dreaded and deteſted by their inferiours, and when they are depoſed, the rejoicings and acclamations of the multitude are general and ſincere.—What can be the pleaſures of power, when it is poſſeſſed on ſuch terms?—The life of a tyrant muſt be a life of endleſs wretchedneſs and perplexity.—He muſt know that injuſtice begets reſentment and enmity, and, knowing that, although lodged within ramparts, and ſurrounded with guards, he muſt live in perpetual anxiety and fear. Having himſelf broken through every tie of morality and nature, he muſt ſuſpect that they are not more reverenced by others, and muſt diſtruſt his very aſſociates and friends.

A great

A great many of the menial ſervants in Turkey are Greeks, who come chiefly from Tino, (one of the iſlands in the Archipelago which I have already mentioned) where they return when they have amaſſed enough wealth to live at eaſe, and enjoy themſelves. —They then become great men, (for the majority of the inhabitants is very poor) give balls, dreſs gaily, and keep ſumptuous tables. Their houſes are principally furniſhed with what their dexterity has ſupplied them with, during the time they were in ſervice; and gentlemen, who have been there, relate, that, at their feaſts, ſcarcely two napkins or two ſpoons are to be ſeen with the ſame mark; for they not only pilfer from their maſter, but from all his friends, whenever an opportunity preſents itſelf*.

Of

* Though the Greeks are ſuch errant rogues, they have ſome ſcruples of conſcience about breaking an oath. In confirmation of this, I ſhall relate an anec-

dote,

Of all the ſubjects of Turkey, the Greeks are the moſt experienced in nautical affairs. They build almoſt all the ſhips of war, and to the Levants or marine ſoldiers, employed on board thoſe in the ſervice of the State, a certain proportion of Greek ſailors is always added, to manage the ſails and rigging. But the maritime force of the Turks has long been on the decline, and the laſt war furniſhed an abundance of proof of their want of diſcipline, courage and ſkill.

dote, which I heard at Smyrna, and which occurred but a few years back.—An Engliſh merchant had diſcharged his cook for pilfering, and, being in treaty with another, he aſked him if he would be ſatisfied with 100 piaſtres a year for his ſervices; to which he agreed. But, ſays the merchant, provided you will take an oath to live with me like an honeſt man, and commit no theft whilſt you ſtay in my family, I will double your wages. On which the Greek, fearful of violating an oath, and, at the ſame time, conſidering 100 piaſtres as but a poor compenſation for what he might acquire by his dexterity and ſkill, frankly refuſed the place.

Many

Many of the Greek women have pretty faces; but I ſcarcely ever remarked one with an elegant, well-proportioned ſhape, which I attribute, in great meaſure, to their indolent habits, and to their manner of ſitting on their ſofas, which is with their legs tucked under them, after the Turkiſh faſhion. They are of a dark complexion, and their eyes and hair are generally black.—Their dreſs varies in every country; but it is always whimſical, and ſometimes very becoming. —At Conſtantinople and Smyrna thoſe who can afford the expence, have generally ſufficient ſkill to add to their perſonal charms, by a graceful and ornamental attire.—Their head-dreſs conſiſts of a turban *, which is commonly of white muſlin, with a cap of red cloth riſing at the top, in the ſhape of a ſugar loaf. In front, there is a large knot,

* The head-dreſs of the Greeks is not ſtrictly ſpeaking a turban, which, as I have already obſerved, none but Turks are allowed to wear.

and,

and, on the right ſide, a piece of ſtuff of the ſame quality as the turban, which is edged with gold or ſilver embroidery, and hangs flowing down below the waiſt. The whole is fantaſtically adorned with a profuſion of natural or artificial flowers. The Poloneſe gown prevails very much; but they have a great averſion from ſtays.

In religious concerns the Greeks, as well as the Turks, are unfortunately ſituated, for they are under the abſolute dominion of an illiterate and rapacious clergy, who reſort to the loweſt arts, to extort money from their ſubmiſſion and credulity.—The prieſts, by their cunning and hypocriſy, have diſcovered the method of influencing all their actions, and guiding all their ſentiments; and they are anxious to retain this unlimited empire over them, not that they may prompt them to virtue, by inſtructing them in the duties of religion; but that they may pamper

per their own avarice, by taking advantage of their ſuperſtition.—Theſe holy paſtors never beſtow their benediction or their advice gratis; but take care to be pretty handſomely rewarded for their trouble.—My brother was one day witneſs to a particular inſtance of their impoſition and avarice.—A common labourer had built a boat, at a ſmall diſtance from the ſea ſhore.—When it was quite finiſhed, it was brought to the ſtrand on rollers, attended by a great concourſe of people, with a prieſt at their head, arrayed in his pontifical robes.—When the boat was launched into the water, the prieſt entered it, and, turning with great dignity and ſolemnity to the eaſt, muttered a ſhort incoherent prayer.—He then addreſſed himſelf to the owner, and, with unparalleled effrontery, aſſured him, that his boat would enjoy an uninterrupted ſeries of proſperity; and, on receiving his fee for the good news

he had announced, walked off, very well contented with his day's buſineſs.

The Greeks are, in ſome meaſure, predeſtinarians: for example.—When they are heſitating about the price or the quality of a bale of goods, and are at a loſs which way to decide, they will ſtop the firſt paſſenger, and be determined by his opinion.—Whilſt, however, predeſtination is confined within theſe limits, it cannot be attended with much miſchief *.

Reſpecting

* The Greek or Eaſtern Church has been finally ſeparated from the Latin or Weſtern Church ſince the time of Michael Cerularius, who was appointed to the Patriarchate of Conſtantinople in the year 1043.

The four biſhops of Conſtantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jeruſalem, have the title of Patriarch, of which the Patriarch of Conſtantinople is the head. He is elected by the twelve metropolitans who reſide neareſt to Conſtantinople; but, before he can exerciſe the functions

Reſpecting the Government, of which I ſhall only ſay a few words, it is in an unlimited degree deſpotic and oppreſſive.—It diſclaims the law of nature, equity and reaſon, and exhibits an amplification of injuſtice, tyranny and vice.—It tramples on the moſt ſacred rights and privileges of humanity, and is formed to perpetuate the horrours of cruelty and deſolation.—The Sultan is deemed omnipotent, and is revered like a God.—He has the power of life and death over all his ſubjects, and from his deciſion there is no appeal.—Such, indeed, is the wonderful force of prejudice and education, that men, who enjoy the firſt dignities of the State,

functions of his office, his election muſt be confirmed by the Grand Seignor. The Greek Church branches into two parties, one of which recogniſes the ſupreme authority of the Patriarch of Conſtantinople: the other, although the doctrines and ceremonies of its religion be the ſame, is independent of his juriſdiction, and is governed by its own laws.

when the warrant for their execution is ſigned, will, without heſitation, obey the ordinance, and bleſs the hand which deprives them of exiſtence.—So far from making any oppoſition, or even remonſtrance, they frequently conſider it as the height of honour and glory, that their lives ſhould be terminated by a command from their Sovereign, and willingly conclude their ſervices by this final proof of their fidelity and ſubmiſſion.—What a ſtrange, what an unaccountable infatuation! that men, from mere ſtupidity and inertneſs of mind, ſhould be prevailed on to contemplate the ruinous apparatus of the moſt odious and repugnant tyranny, not only with complacency, but with veneration; and that they ſhould be ſo inſenſible to the value of their natural and impreſcriptible rights, as to ſubmit, without repining, to the privation of every thing which is worthy and good, and cheer-

fully to ſurrender life itſelf, whenever it is demanded * !

Unlimited, however, as the authority of the Sultan is, he ſtill finds it neceſſary to preſerve meaſures with the Janizaries †, who are the ſtanding

* Some few years back, an Aga, near Smyrna, of great authority and influence, ſet up the ſtandard of rebellion againſt his Sovereign. He was rich and powerful, and his partiſans were numerous. The Emperor diſpatched privately two of his ſervants to deſtroy him, who contrived to enter his chamber, and ſeize him unawares. The noiſe which they made alarmed his guards, who immediately aſſembled, and were preparing to reſcue him from theſe ruffians, when they unfolded the roll of paper, containing the order of the Grand Seignor for the immediate execution of their chief.—Struck with a kind of religious awe at the ſight of his ſignet, they fell down on their knees, kiſſed the ſacred command, and tamely beheld their captain beheaded in their preſence.

† The Janizaries enjoy great privileges, and are very much reſpected by the common people. But they are

ſtanding army of the empire, and who, although diſperſed through various parts of the country, are firmly united by one common and indiſſoluble bond of intereſt and ſelf-preſervation.—The frequent revolutions, which have been occaſioned by their intrigues, furniſh the cleareſt proof of their power and influence.

Next to the Janizaries, the largeſt corps of infantry is the artillery, which ought to amount to 20,000 men; but the Turks are miſerable engineers, and their field pieces are ſo unwieldy, and the carriages ſo clum-

totally degenerated from what they formerly were. They now neglect thoſe exerciſes which inured them to fatigue; which augmented their agility and ſtrength; and taught them all the duties of ſoldiers. Orchan was the original inſtitutor of this military corps. It ought to conſiſt of 160 regiments of 1000 men each; but it always falls very far ſhort of this number.

ſily

ſily conſtructed, that, in time of action, they are at a loſs how to manage them *.

The poſt of Grand Vizir is the moſt eminent and perilous which a ſubject can hold. He is Prime Miniſter of the empire, and ranks next to the Sultan.—His power is almoſt unlimited, and his orders are no ſooner iſſued than obeyed. His nominal ſalary is not very great; but his perquiſites are enormous.—All foreign Embaſſadors, at

* The Turkiſh cavalry, which is not now holden in its former repute, ought to conſiſt of upwards of 220,000 men; and the marine ſoldiers are about 50,000 in number.—The Boſtangis, or body-guard of the Sultan, ſhould conſiſt of 12,000 men. But ſcarcely any regiment has its complement, and many of them, from the neglect and corruption of their officers, are ſhamefully deficient.—The whole military force of the Ottoman empire, during the late war, ſeldom exceeded 400,000 men.—A total relaxation of diſcipline, and degeneracy of courage and proweſs, pervade every department and branch of their military eſtabliſhment.

their firſt audience, load him with rich preſents, and no perſon can tranſact any buſineſs with the Porte, without firſt rewarding him.—Whoever is appointed to the government of a province is alſo obliged to pay him a conſiderable ſum; and if he be of an avaricious turn of mind, he can, without riſk, extort money from all ranks and deſcriptions.—His riches, however, are frequently the cauſe of his downfall; for when his maſter thinks him an object worth his notice, he willingly ſacrifices him to the juſtice and indignation of the public; and, as a reward for ſuch magnanimity and patriotiſm, ſecures his wealth in his own coffers.—The life of the Grand Vizir is, in other reſpects, a very precarious tenure.—He always has a great many ſecret enemies, who are continually engaged in plots and conſpiracies to promote his ruin.—If the affairs of the empire proſper, during his adminiſtration, the praiſe is his Sovereign's: if the people are diſcontented

tented and tumultuous; or if any undertaking fails of ſucceſs, he forfeits his head: ſo that he muſt not only deſerve good fortune; but he muſt command it.

In Turkey no dignity is hereditary, nor is any perſon advanced to diſtinction, in conſideration of his talents or his merit.—The whole machinery of the Government turns on the wheels of corruption. Every office, from the higheſt to the loweſt, is ſold to the beſt bidder; and the money, which is thus baſely exacted, forms one of the principal branches of the revenue of the Prince.

The improvement, or the ſatisfaction, which can be derived from travelling through a country thus inhabited, and thus governed, cannot be very great; for although the follies, and even the vices of mankind, may afford many uſeful and monitory leſſons to a mind of diſcernment; yet the uniform exhibition

hibition of the defects of our nature, can only inſpire pity, contempt, diſguſt or humiliation.—Such however, in a greater or a leſs degree, has been the ſcene, which I have been obliged to contemplate, during my reſidence in Turkey.—Not that I mean to advance, that every man is equally depraved, or that the amiable qualities of the heart are totally unknown; but that ſuch glaring inſtances of oppreſſion and rapaciouſneſs on one ſide, and of ſubmiſſion and puſillanimity on the other, are ſo continually occurring, that one is led to deſpiſe the predominant diſpoſition of the people. Haughty, cruel and overbearing when in power; that power annihilated, cringing, humble and irreſolute, their different ſituations only ſerve to delineate the various ſhades of a weak and vitiated mind.

In the hands of a well-governed, civilized and enlightened people, Turkey would certainly

tainly be one of the moſt beautiful and productive countries in the world. Under the dominion of the Turks, the greateſt part of it is ſuffered to remain in an uncultivated ſtate; and if ſome rich and magnificent ſcenery now and then preſent itſelf, it is generally to be aſcribed to the bounties of Nature, and not to the exertions, the ingenuity, or the refinements of Art.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

BUDA, July 5, 1792.

WHAT pleaſure can be more exquiſite than that, which a priſoner experiences on the day of emancipation?—Judge then of our ſenſations, when we were releaſed, on the 30th of June, from our confinement at Tour Rouge, after having been detained there ten tedious days.—With what velocity does Time fly, when it is agreeably employed; but, when the mind is anxious and diſcontented, how dreadfully does it require the ſpur!

Our deſire to reach Vienna had increaſed, in proportion to the numerous obſtructions and

and diſappointments which had, ſince our departure from Conſtantinople, ſo frequently foiled our expectations: and, I can aſſure you, that ſcarcely any temptation or recompenſe could have prevailed on us to deviate from the direct road.

About a quarter of a mile from the Lazaretto, juſt beyond one of our boundaries, there is an inn, which had ſupplied us with our ſcanty and miſerable fare, during our impriſonment; and this inn was alſo to provide us with horſes for the firſt ſtage of our long journey.—From the ſpecimen the landlord had already given us of his accommodations, I did not augur any good opinion of his ability in this way; nor was I very far wrong, for his ſtud conſiſted but of three horſes; and, after waiting a conſiderable time, we were at laſt obliged to have recourſe to the aid of a neighbouring farmer. Horſes which have been accuſtomed to the plough

plough have no notion of a quick trot or a gallop. If, by dint of whipping and ſpurring, you can get them into what is called a *jog trot*, you accompliſh no ſmall matter; and, had it not been for the continual labour and exertion of our poſtillions, they would have gone the plough pace the whole way.

When we reached the town of Tour Rouge, we did not forget to call on our friend Monſieur M—— who had been ſo kind to us.—He received us with a great deal of warmth, made us ſtop to drink a diſh of moſt excellent coffee with him, and did every thing in his power to detain us the remainder of the day.—I really regretted very much, that our arrangements would not permit us to comply with his requeſt, for I ſhould have been very glad to have been better acquainted with him.—We meet with ſo few who are willing to ſerve us without the

the proſpect of reward, that a man of a friendly and diſintereſted heart is a rare and valuable acquiſition.

We were obliged to pay a viſit to the Governor of the caſtle of this place, to lay before him a certificate, which had been given us by the director of the Lazaretto, mentioning that we had come from Turkey, and had duly performed quarantine.——The caſtle ſtands on the ſummit of a hill, and we mounted a full half mile before we got to the Governor's apartments.—We found him deeply engaged in his ſtudies, and ſurrounded with plans of towns and fortifications. He received us with the formal ceremony of an old German officer who had paſſed his life in camps; aſked us a few queſtions concerning our travels; and having diſpatched our buſineſs, attended us to the door, and wiſhed us good day.

After

After leaving Tour Rouge, we met with no further interruption, and got pretty early in the day to Hermanſtadt, where, on account of the goodneſs of the inn, we remained till the next morning, that, after the bad fare and broken ſlumbers of the Lazaretto, our ſtrength might be a little recruited by the luxuries of a good dinner and a ſound ſleep.—When I was ſhewn into my chamber, I was very much ſtruck with the peculiarity of my bed, for, although very common in this country, it was different from any thing I had hitherto ſeen.—Inſtead of a quilt and blankets for a covering, I was ſupplied with a ſecond feather-bed, ſo that my poſition was between two immenſe maſſes of feathers, and not, I can tell you, to my taſte at leaſt, a very comfortable one.—To make up for this inconvenience, they gave us, at a moderate expence, an excellent dinner, and, in the morning, a delicious breakfaſt. The chocolate of this country is,

in

in fact, the beſt I have ever taſted.—They have an admirable method of preparing it, and they ſerve up with it a particular kind of roll, which is ſuperiour to the fineſt bread.—I dare ſay you will obſerve, that I ſpeak on theſe ſubjects with an unuſual degree of animation; but if you had been living with us, for ten days, in that land of famine, Tour Rouge, you would not be at all ſurpriſed.

Hermanſtadt is ſituated in the middle of an extenſive plain, on the banks of a ſmall river, which, at the diſtance of a few miles from the city, falls into the Alt.—It is the capital of Tranſylvania *, and was the reſidence of the ancient Princes of the coun-

* Although Tranſylvania is a ſeparate country from Hungary, and is governed by diſtinct laws, as I dwell ſo little on the ſubject, I have not thought it worth while to inſert it in the running title, but have included it under the general head of Hungary.

try.—It is large, populous and well-built, and is of great importance, on account of the ſtrength of its fortifications, which are the principal defence of the frontiers of this part of the Emperor's dominions.—The houſes are ſubſtantially built of brick, which is plaſtered and white-waſhed, and the ſtreets are regular and well paved.—Water from the river is conveyed, by ſmall channels, through every ſtreet, which keeps the town remarkably neat and clean.—There are public granaries * in this city, in which

* How far public granaries, in this country, might anſwer the purpoſes, in times like the preſent, of keeping down the price of wheat, and preventing monopolies, I cannot exactly pretend to ſay.—There are ſome objections againſt them; but they would alſo be attended with many good and ſalutary conſequences; and the country requires the adoption of ſome plan to reduce the high price of the indiſpenſable articles of life, which, if they continue increaſing as they have done for the laſt two years, are ten times more likely to

which there is, in general, a plentiful ſtock of wheat.—It is kept under ground, and is preſerved for years without damage.—The air of this part of the country is unhealthy, and is ſaid to occaſion the gout, a complaint with which the inhabitants are much troubled.—In London, people contrive to get it, without the aſſiſtance of the air.—

But

to ruin us, than the burden of our national debt.—I lament our preſent ſituation ſtill more, becauſe I am convinced, as far at leaſt as I can rely on my own obſervation, that it does not ariſe, by any means in its full extent, from real ſcarcity.—In the courſe of the laſt ſummer, I travelled upwards of 1400 miles over different parts of England, juſt at the time the farmers were gathering in the harveſt. We had all ſuffered ſo much, during the courſe of the winter, from the apprehenſions of abſolute famine, that the ſtate of the crops became an intereſting ſubject of enquiry to every one. Their favourable appearance was an object of general congratulation; and although they did not threſh out ſo plentifully as was expected, yet they were got in without damage

But I muſt not think of thoſe guzzling gormandizing feaſts, where eating and drinking are the ſole enjoyment and occupation; for they repreſent to me human nature in ſuch a degraded ſtate, that I ſhould ſoon loſe all patience.

Whilſt at Conſtantinople, we had neglected to apply to Sir R—— A—— for a paſſport, a paper which, although unknown

and at little expence, and were on the whole very fair crops. Barley and oats were more than uſually abundant. —But not only wheat is at an enormous price, but oats and barley, butcher's meat, and every individual neceſſary of life. It really is an object of moſt ſerious concern, and ſomething muſt be done to check the progreſs of this alarming evil.—If proviſions continue to increaſe in price, or even if they do not materially diminiſh, the poor cannot poſſibly ſubſiſt without a proportional increaſe of wages, which will have an immediate effect on the price of our manufactures, and will ultimately be felt by the whole commerce of the country. Purſue this hypotheſis; keep on increaſing; and conſider where the miſchief will terminate.

with us *, is very eſſential to travellers in moſt foreign countries. This omiſſion might have been the occaſion of much trouble and delay, had it not been for the politeneſs and civility of Governor R——.

We had mentioned this affair to Monſieur M——, who immediately gave us a letter of recommendation to a friend of his, who enjoyed ſome poſt under the Governor.

Anxious to get this buſineſs expedited, as ſoon as we arrived at Hermanſtadt, we waited on this gentleman, and delivered our

* This is not the caſe now, and it is not much to the honour of thoſe, who have the management of this department, that ſuch an exorbitant ſum as three guineas ſhould be exacted, before one can be obtained. I am ſure this was not the intention of Parliament, when the bill paſſed. I never but once paid any thing for a paſſport on the continent, and that was at Paris, at the time the King was on his trial. The price however was not three guineas, but two ſhillings.

letter.—It was a very ſultry day, and we found him ſitting, without his coat, under a tent which was pitched in his garden.—He received us very ceremoniouſly, and appeared to be rather diſconcerted at our ſurpriſing him in ſuch complete diſhabille.—When he was made acquainted with the purport of our errand, he ſaid he ſhould be very happy to ſerve us, and would attend us to the Governor's the following morning; but we told him how much we were preſſed for time, and urged him ſo forcibly to go that morning, that we at laſt prevailed on him.—He firſt put on his coat, then his cocked hat, and laſtly his ſword; and thus formally equipped, ſallied forth.—The walk was rather long, which, added to his corpulency and the heat of the weather, made him pant ſo, that I quite pitied him, and almoſt regretted having dragged him from the indolence of repoſe, which he ſeemed to be enjoying ſo much,

whilſt

whilſt under his tent.—When we got to the Governor's houſe, he only ſtopped to introduce us, and then hurried back to his rural retreat.—The Governor received us very politely, and on being made acquainted with the circumſtances of our ſituation, not only furniſhed us with every thing that was neceſſary, but preſſed us to dine with him the following day, which however, notwithſtanding the civility with which the invitation was urged, we had the ſelf-denial to decline.

In the evening we went to the theatre, where we were very much amuſed.—A play was quite a new ſcene for us. The actors and actreſſes were very decent, and the houſe was well filled.—Whilſt we were there, a Hungarian Officer entered into converſation with us, and was very inquiſitive about England, which, he ſaid, he intended to viſit the very firſt opportunity.—This ac-

quaintance proved uſeful to us; for when the play was over, and we wiſhed to return home, we found that it rained very violently. He immediately offered his aſſiſtance, and with his cloak and umbrella, we all three contrived to reach the inn, without getting wet, where, after thanking him for his kindneſs, we wiſhed him good night, and parted.

Tranſylvania is a part of the antient Dacia, which ſo long reſiſted the efforts of the Roman arms.—The inhabitants have always been of a turbulent and warlike diſpoſition, and their country has undergone numberleſs revolutions. Since the treaty of Carlowitz in 1699 *, it has been annexed to the patrimonial dominions of the Houſe of Auſtria,

* This treaty was concluded on the 26th of January, the conferences having laſted upwards of two months. For the particulars of it, ſee L'Hiſtoire de l'Empire Ottoman, par Mignot, tom. iv. p. 18.

which,

which, however, does not derive any great revenue from the poſſeſſion.—The feudal ſyſtem ſtill obtains. The ariſtocracy is almoſt independent, and the peaſantry is in a ſtate of abject vaſſalage.—Where theſe wide and unjuſt diſtinctions exiſt, between the rich and the poor, neither the one nor the other can be happy. They muſt live in perpetual enmity: the rich muſt be always fearful of loſing that authority, which they have acquired by force or by accident, and which they have no right to retain: the poor, feeling the weight of their indigence and their chains, muſt be always ſeeking for an opportunity of redreſſing their wrongs, and of relieving themſelves from the yoke of their oppreſſors.

We left Hermanſtadt on the firſt of July, immediately after breakfaſt.—Tranſylvania is naturally fertile; but it is not like thoſe parts

parts of Europe, where civilization and commerce have excited an univerſal ſpirit of enterprize, ingenuity and induſtry ; and where the happineſs is increaſing with the riches of the country.—Agriculture and the arts have yet much to accompliſh ; and you may, in ſome parts, travel for miles, and have only to lament how little Nature has been aſſiſted.—The principal productions of the country are ſalt, wheat and wine, and the mountains abound with rich mines of various kinds of metal.

A few ſtages beyond Hermanſtadt, we paſſed through Mullenbach, which is a fortified town, but not remarkable for any thing elſe.

The country in the neighbourhood of Deva is mountainous and pictureſque, and produces very fine timber and excellent wine.

wine.—The river Maroſch, which we frequently ſaw from the road, enlivened and embelliſhed the proſpect, particularly ſo at the time we paſſed, for it was covered with rafts, loaded with various commodities, which were deſcending the river to different parts of Hungary.

About ſeven years ago, this part of Tranſylvania was overrun and ravaged by a banditti, who committed every kind of exceſs and depredation.—They pillaged and burnt the houſes of the nobility, and declared they would never lay down their arms, till they had delivered their country from the horrours of vaſſalage. They amounted to upwards of twelve thouſand in number, and were ſo formidable, both on account of their fierceneſs and their unanimity, that a conſiderable length of time expired, before the vigilance and activity of the military could diſperſe them.

We

We arrived at Temeſwar * on the 3d, about nine o'clock in the morning, where we ſtopped but a few hours.—The country from Deva, is fertile, and tolerably well cultivated; and, as it approaches Temeſwar, is chiefly employed in the growth of grain.—This city is at no great diſtance from the frontiers of Tranſylvania, and ſtands on an extenſive plain, which is watered by the river Temes. It is large, populous and well built, and its fortifications are the ſtrongeſt in the kingdom.

* Temeſwar was built by the antient Kings of Hungary.—It has ſuſtained ſeveral obſtinate ſieges. It was taken, in 1551, by Achomatus, whom Solyman the Magnificent had ſent as his Lieutenant into Europe. See Knolles's Turkiſh Hiſt. vol. i. p. 511.—In 1716, it was retaken by Prince Eugene of Savoy, for the Emperor Charles VI, after a ſiege of ten weeks. See L'Hiſtoire de l'Empire Ottoman, par Mignot, tom. 4, p. 225.

By the treaty of Paſſarowitz, in 1718, all Hungary and Sclavonia were ſecured to the Houſe of Auſtria.

From

From Temeſwar we proceeded to Kaniſcha, a few miles beyond which, we croſſed the Theys in a ferry-boat.—The borders of this river are extremely pleaſant, being ornamented with woods, and rich paſturages, which afford nouriſhment to numerous flocks of ſheep.

Shortly after paſſing the Theys, we arrived at Szegedin, which is a large, well fortified town, ſituated on the banks of that river, immediately oppoſite the mouth of the Maroſch.

Before we reached Buda, we paſſed through ſeveral conſiderable towns, of which I have nothing very intereſting to relate.—What principally attracted my notice, and afforded me the greateſt pleaſure, was the ſurpriſing neatneſs of the villages, which are very numerous. All the houſes are white-waſhed, and uniformly built; and every tenant

tenant has a plat of ground, which ſeparates his houſe from his neighbour's. This was a ſcene which I truly enjoyed; for I ſurvey, with much purer delight, the comforts of the poor, than the magnificence of the rich.—Magnificence is confined to a few, which few it does not in reality make happier; and when once ſeen, is ſeldom worth ſeeing a ſecond time; but comfort gladdens and warms the heart wherever it is found: it is the animating ſpring of ſocial life, and the more it is diffuſed, the greater is the ſatisfaction which it creates.

Although the proſpect is, at intervals, varied, it moſtly conſiſts of extenſive tracts, covered with different kinds of grain, which article forms one of the principal branches of the commerce of the kingdom.—We ſometimes rode through corn-fields, for ſeveral miles together, and, as the farmers were gathering in the harveſt, the ſcene

which they preſented was particularly beautiful and intereſting.—The crops this year are very abundant; and I contemplated, with the moſt lively ſatisfaction, that glow of cheerfulneſs and contentment which animated the countenance of the peaſant, and which ſeemed to expreſs his gratitude to Nature, for the recompenſe which ſhe had beſtowed on his honeſt and uſeful labours.

About nine o'clock this morning, we entered Buda.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXV.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

VIENNA, July 8, 1792.

BUDA is the capital of Lower Hungary, and is the largeſt and moſt populous city in the kingdom.—It is pleaſantly ſituated on a riſing ground, on the weſtern ſide of the Danube; is ſtrongly fortified; and is ſurrounded by a delightful country, which produces excellent grain and ſtill better wine *.

It is a place of very great antiquity, and few have experienced greater or more fre-

* Tokay, ſo celebrated for the delicious flavour of its wines, is about 100 miles to the eaſt of Buda.

quent

quent revolutions.—It was, for near two centuries, a conſtant bone of contention between the Chriſtians and Turks, who in that ſpace of time beſieged it twelve times * ; and it was not finally ſecured to the Houſe of Auſtria till the peace of Carlowitz in 1699.

* Solyman the Magnificent, in 1526, became maſter of Buda, after the deſperate battle of Mohatz, in which Lewis the IId, King of Hungary, periſhed with 18,000 men. The following year, it fell into the hands of the Archduke Ferdinand, the competitor for the crown againſt John Zapoli. In 1529, Solyman retook it, and placed Zapoli on the throne. He died in 1540, and the following year, his widow Iſabella was obliged to remit Buda into the hands of the Turks, who kept poſſeſſion of it till the year 1686.—It ſuffered from the Chriſtians, during that ſpace of time, ſix different ſieges, which were all ineffectual. At laſt, on the 2d of September 1686, it fell again into their hands, after they had beſieged it vigorouſly for near three months. See Knolles's and Mignot's Hiſtories of the Ottoman Empire.

The Turks held an uninterrupted poſſeſſion of it for 145 years, during which time, they built ſeveral moſques and baths, many of which ſtill remain.—But whilſt they adorned it in this reſpect, they either deſtroyed, or ſuffered to fall to decay, the noble palaces and magnificent buildings which Sigiſmund * had erected.

There is ſtill, however, a fine palace here, belonging to the Emperor, which ſtands on an eminence, and commands a rich and extenſive proſpect.—It is a ſpacious and regular piece of architecture, and many of the apartments are elegantly fitted up, in the French taſte. They alſo contain ſome good paintings; and one of the rooms is hung with eminently beautiful tapeſtry, which was manufactured at Bruſſels.

* Sigiſmund was crowned King of Hungary in 1387, and afterwards became Emperor.

The Emperor's regalia, as King of Hungary, are uſually kept in this palace; but on account of the coronations, which are ſhortly to take place, the richeſt articles have been removed.—He was crowned in this city, King of Hungary, but a few days before our arrival; ſo that, had it not been for our unfortunate detention at Tour Rouge, we ſhould have been preſent at the ceremony. It was conducted with great ſplendour and ſolemnity.—Near the palace there is a fortreſs, which is ſtrongly defended by baſtions and towers.

The public baths, which we went to ſee, are not very elegant; but they are ſupplied with water of an aſtoniſhing natural heat, and are ſaid to be very efficacious in gouty and rheumatic complaints. Patients reſort from all parts of the kingdom, to take the benefit of them.

There is an univerſity at Buda; but learning may be ſaid to be in its infancy, in every part of Hungary. The inhabitants are not yet ſufficiently poliſhed and refined, much to reliſh the elegant purſuits of the underſtanding; nor do they cultivate, with any zeal, thoſe improvements which the arts and ſciences uniformly introduce, and which, whilſt they embelliſh, add to the uſefulneſs and the comforts of life.

Oppoſite Buda, on the eaſtern ſide of the Danube, ſtands Peſt, which, though not ſo large, is a much handſomer city. It is ſituated on an agreeable plain. The ſtreets are wide, regular and well paved, and many of the houſes are built of poliſhed ſtone.—It has experienced nearly the ſame fate as Buda; having generally fallen with it, or ſhortly after.—In the days of the elective Monarchy, the States of Hungary uſed to aſſemble here, in arms and on horſeback, to chooſe

chooſe their King.—There is a handſome theatre, both at Peſt and Buda, where plays are acted, every night alternately, at this ſeaſon of the year.—We were preſent at one of their repreſentations, and were very well entertained.—The nobility, at leaſt thoſe who are in affluence, live in great ſplendour, keep a great many horſes, and are very fond of public amuſements and elegant equipages.—Theſe two cities are united by a noble wooden bridge over the Danube which is nearly half a mile in length, and is built on ſixty pontoons.

As we had not been in bed ſince we left Hermanſtadt, we were glad to avail ourſelves of the opportunity of repoſe, which a comfortable inn afforded; and we remained at Buda till the next morning, when we ſet off for Preſburg, where we arrived pretty early in the day on the 7th.

A few ſtages beyond Buda, we paſſed through Comorn *, which is a large, well built and populous town, with a caſtle and very ſtrong fortifications.—It is of a triangular ſhape, and is ſituated in a pleaſant country, on the ſouth-eaſt corner of the iſland of Schut, on the ſpot where the branches of the Danube unite.

The next town of conſequence we came to, was Raab †, which ſtands on the river of

* Comorn, in 1593, was beſieged by the Turks, with a numerous army and a large fleet of ſhips.—The Pacha Sinan endeavoured to corrupt the Governor, and ſent into the town five Turks with a very conſiderable bribe. But he proved faithful to his truſt, and inſtead of accepting their offer, he cut off the heads of four of them, and, fixing them on ſpears, diſplayed them on the ramparts. The fifth, he ſent back to the Pacha, to inform his maſter what he had done, and that he rejected his offer with ſcorn. The ſiege was ſhortly after raiſed. See Knolles's Turkiſh Hiſtory, vol. i. p. 734.

† Before the attack on Comorn, the Turks inveſted Raab,

of the ſame name, juſt where it forms a junction with the Danube. It poſſeſſes an agreeable ſituation, and is a place of great ſtrength, both by nature and art.

The road, between Buda and Preſburg, is very good, and interſects a rich and well cultivated country, abounding in grain, wine, wood and fine paſturages, which preſent a great variety of elegant and luxuriant landſcapes.

Preſburg is the capital of Upper Hungary, and is delightfully ſituated on the banks

Raab, which was betrayed into their hands by Count Hardec, who commanded the garriſon. He endeavoured to juſtify himſelf before the Archduke; but his treachery had been already fully revealed by one of the party concerned, and he and his accomplices were executed at Vienna a few months after.—See L'Hiſt. de L'Empire Ottoman, par Mignot, tom. ii. p. 255.—At Raab there is a univerſity.

of the Danube.—The ſtreets are ſpacious and regular, and the houſes are ſubſtantially built.—The fortifications are ſtrong, and the palaces of the Emperor and the Archbiſhop are noble ſtructures. The former which, within theſe few years, has been converted into a college, ſtands on an eminence, and commands a charming view of the ſurrounding country and the Danube, whoſe waters are divided into different channels by ſeveral enchanting iſlands.—You may have ſome idea of the extent of this building, when I inform you, that it is the actual reſidence of about twelve hundred ſtudents.

We took an early dinner at Preſburg, and after a delightful ride, chiefly on the borders of the Danube, we entered the metropolis of the German empire, a little before midnight.

Notwithſtanding

Notwithſtanding the lateneſs of the hour, and our repeated aſſurances, that our trunks contained nothing but wearing apparel, we were obliged to drive to the cuſtom-houſe, and to remain there a conſiderable time, which was employed in the ſtrict examination of every article of our baggage. —The Officers, when they had finiſhed, had the impudence to aſk us for money, which you may be ſure, after the unneceſſary trouble they had occaſioned, we were not in a humour to beſtow; and I muſt own, I felt ſome little ſatisfaction in diſappointing the rapaciouſneſs of theſe modern harpies.

Hungary is on the whole a very fine country. The climate is good, and the ſoil is fertile. It produces wine and corn and all kinds of vegetables in abundance and in great perfection. Game and wild fowl are very plentiful, and the breed of ſheep and horſes

horſes is highly valued.—In the mountains there are rich and extenſive mines of gold, ſilver, lead and other metals, and the ſalt mines are alſo very valuable.

The Hungarians are a handſome, ſtrong, well-made race of men. They are excellent ſoldiers, and can raiſe above 100,000 fighting men.—They are indolent, proud, revengeful and cruel; very fond of horſes, hunting and good cheer; and have a great averſion from commerce and mechanics.—Their dreſs is very becoming. It conſiſts of a fur cap, a cloſe coat and a cloak, with pantaloons and half boots, which are ſo common, that many a gentleman has paſſed his life, without having ever had a pair of ſhoes on his feet. They ſhave their beards, except the upper lip, which is generally adorned with a pair of huge whiſkers.—The rich live in idleneſs, in luxury and pomp; the poor are principally employed in agricul-

ture;

ture; and the trade of the kingdom is carried on chiefly by foreigners.

The revenue, which the Emperor derives from Hungary, is little more than ſufficient to pay the charges of garriſons and fortifications and the other expences of the Government. It ariſes chiefly from the duties on cattle and ſalt.

I cannot quit my account of this long journey, without noticing the bad regulations, which both the poſt-maſters and the poſt-horſes are under, on the road from Hermanſtadt to Buda.—At every place where we ſtopped, we found the horſes out at graſs, and were always detained an hour or two, before we could proceed.—Several of the poſt-maſters were extremely uncivil, and the only uniform, which, in many parts, diſtinguiſhed the poſtillions, was a coarſe dirty ſhirt and a pair of filthy trowſers.—

Theſe

Theſe two articles compoſed the whole of their dreſs, and perhaps the whole of their *wardrobe*.—It muſt be allowed, that an equipment of this nature cannot be very coſtly; yet to prove how far œconomy may be carried, the ſhirt was never long enough to tuck into the trowſers, ſo that, in windy weather, however great might be the modeſty of the man, he could not poſſibly conceal the colour of his back.—The accommodations at the inns were in general far from being inviting, and we ſeldom could get any thing to eat, unleſs we waited for two or three hours; for if there was any ſtock on hand (which was very rarely the caſe) it was not only to cook, but to kill.

On the road from Buda to Vienna matters were much better managed, and we were more comfortable in every reſpect.—At the different ſtages, we generally found the

the horſes in the ſtables, and were ſeldom detained above twenty minutes or half an hour, which was ſuch a conſiderable improvement, that, by the force of compariſon, we were really induced to regard it as a luxury.

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

VIENNA, July 19, 1792.

COMPARED with London, Paris and Conſtantinople, Vienna is not a large city; yet it is as large as, perhaps, in ſound policy, any city ſhould be.—An overgrown metropolis is always a diſadvantage to a country, in every point of view.—It drains it of its wealth, its proviſions and its population; and is the ſource of diſſipation, corruption and crimes.

Vienna is very agreeably ſituated, ſtanding on a fruitful plain, which is watered by the Danube and ſeveral ſmaller rivers.—It is the capital of the German dominions, and the

the uſual reſidence of the Emperor, who keeps a ſplendid court.—At preſent he is at Frankfort, where his coronation is ſhortly to take place.—Within the walls, which are not quite three miles in circumference, it is very confined. The houſes, which are chiefly plaſtered and white-waſhed, are well built, and the ſtreets, though narrow, are regular and well paved.—At night they are lighted and watched, and paſſengers may walk out at all hours with the greateſt ſecurity.—Three of the ſquares are decorated with handſome monuments, which have been raiſed, on different occaſions, at a great expence.

The ſuburbs occupy more ground than the city, from which they are ſeparated by an eſplanade of about three hundred paces, where no buildings are allowed to be erected.—This regulation was made on account of the fortifications, which are conſidered as of the

the utmoſt importance, and which indeed have enabled the inhabitants to ſuſtain ſeveral vigorous ſieges *.

Including the ſuburbs, the population of Vienna is computed to amount to 210,000 ſouls. It is not ornamented with many ſplendid public edifices, nor are the houſes of individuals diſtinguiſhed, in their outward appearance, for any thing but their neatneſs. —The churches, though numerous, are by no means remarkable for elegance of archi-

* Solyman the Magnificent, with an immenſe army, beſieged it in Sept. 1529, but was obliged to abandon it with diſgrace, after continuing before it near three weeks.

It ſuffered from the Turks a ſecond dreadful ſiege in 1683, and would have fallen into their hands, had it not been fortunately relieved by John Sobieſki King of Poland.

For the particulars of theſe two memorable ſieges, ſee Knolles's Turkiſh Hiſt. vol. i. p. 411, and Sir Paul Rycaut's Hiſtory of the Turks, p. 103.

tecture

tecture or richneſs of decoration.—Thoſe which are moſt admired are the cathedral of St. Stephen, and the church of St. Charles. The firſt is a very fine Gothic ſtructure, with a ſteeple which is reckoned one of the higheſt in Europe.—It is ornamented, both within and without, with a great many ſtatues and other pieces of ſculpture, and contains ſome fine monuments, amongſt which are thoſe of the Emperor Frederick IVth and Prince Eugene.—The ſecond is built after the model of St. Peter's at Rome, and was erected, at the beginning of this century, by the Greek merchants, eſtabliſhed in this city, as a teſtimony of their gratitude for the grant of ſome commercial privileges.—The churches of the Jeſuits, the Cordeliers and the Capuchins are alſo worth ſeeing, particularly the laſt, which is the place where the Princes and Princeſſes of the Houſe of Auſtria are interred in an immenſe ſubterraneous vault, and ſeveral noble mauſoleums

are erected to their memory.—In a few of the churches there are ſome good pictures.

The palace of the Emperor little beſpeaks the reſidence of the firſt Prince in Chriſtendom.—It forms two ſides of a ſquare, and is very extenſive; but the walls, which are plaſtered, and were *once* white, are, at preſent, ſo abominably dirty, that its appearance is (if poſſible) more contemptible than that of our St. James's.

There are places, however, belonging to the Emperor, which fully compenſate for the want of a ſumptuous palace; and the magnificence of the Imperial Library and the Arſenal cannot well be ſurpaſſed.—The great hall of the firſt is in the form of a croſs. The domes and cieling are adorned with paintings, repreſenting the arts, and are ſupported by pillars in imitation of variegated marble. Under the centre dome is placed

placed a fine ſtatue in white marble of the Emperor Charles the VIth, who was the founder of this noble edifice.—Seventeen marble ſtatues of the Princes of the Houſe of Auſtria, interſperſed with antique buſts, (among which there is a remarkably fine one of Pyrrhus) are ranged round the hall; and thoſe parts of the walls which are ſeen, are incruſted with marble. The number of volumes amounts to above 300,000, beſides manuſcripts, of which there is a large and valuable collection *.

In an adjoining cabinet, amongſt other

* In this library there is a fine collection of prints, and another of quadrupeds, birds, plants, flowers and fruits, all painted in miniature after nature.—It alſo contains the Senatus-Conſultum which paſſed in the year of Rome 568, forbidding Bacchanals; and, amongſt the manuſcripts, are the two moſt antient copies which exiſt of Livy and Dioſcorides. Beſides this, there are two other public libraries at Vienna.

curioſities, we were ſhewn the three following, viz.

1.—A map, on which the Roman world is delineated, and which, though a copy, is the oldeſt extant.—It is drawn on a roll of parchment, not above a foot wide, but of a great length; and the countries are repreſented in regular ſucceſſion, without any regard to their relative ſituations.

2.—A volume of Peruvian hieroglyphics, which was ſeized by the Spaniards, when they firſt invaded that part of America. The ſymbols are, I think, more whimſical than thoſe of the Egyptians, and the colours are ſtill very lively; owing, perhaps, to ſome preſervative quality in the ſubſtance on which they are laid, which I was aſſured was human ſkin.

3.—An

3.—An orrery which is a moſt wonderful and ingenious piece of mechaniſm. It is arranged according to the Copernican ſyſtem, and goes by clock-work.

In a ſmall paſſage, at the bottom of the ſtair-caſe, which leads to the library, there are ſeveral antient ſepulchres. One of them was brought from Epheſus, and is adorned, in front, with a fine baſs-relief, which is ſuppoſed to repreſent the battle between Theſeus and the Amazons.

The Arſenal is a ſpacious ſquare building, and contains arms for 400,000 men. They are arranged with ſuch ſurpriſing ſkill, that the devices, although formed with inſtruments which were invented to excite terrour and diffuſe deſolation, only remind one of the mildneſs and ingenuity of the ſofter arts. Beſides theſe devices, which are varied almoſt without end, there are pyramids, pil-

lars, trophies and fortifications, which are perfectly repreſented by the ingenious diſpoſal of guns, piſtols, ſpears, ſwords and other warlike weapons. Thoſe arms, which do not contribute to the ornamental part, are concealed in cones, which, from their outward dimenſions, no one would ſuſpect to be the repoſitories of ſuch immenſe ſtores. We were ſhewn the armours of Godfrey of Bouillon, and of the Emperor Charles Vth, with the ſword which he uſually wore; the leathern jacket and the hat (both pierced with bullets in many places) which the great Guſtavus Adolphus had on, when he was killed at the battle of Lutzen; and the helmet of Prince Eugene.

In another room are oſtentatiouſly diſplayed the trophies which have been gained from the different countries, with which the Germans have been at war. I felt a kind of national pride, when I was told, that they could

could boaſt of none wreſted from the Engliſh.

In the court-yard there are two curious cannon of an immenſe ſize; two gigantic mortars; and an iron chain; which were all taken from the Turks.—The chain is ſuſpended, in feſtoons, round the walls which incloſe the yard. It is 1200 feet long, and each link weighs from 22 to 24 pounds. It was formerly made uſe of by the Turks to block up the paſſage of the Danube near Buda.

The Cabinet of Natural Hiſtory contains a noble collection of foſſils, minerals, ſpars and precious ſtones, which are arranged according to their claſſes; and the collection of medals is one of the largeſt and moſt complete in Europe.

The gallery of pictures belonging to

Prince Lichtenſtein is the fineſt in Vienna. They cover the walls of ſeveral large apartments, two of which are enriched with the works of Rubens and Van Dyke.—Over the doors of one of the rooms are two paintings, in imitation of baſs-reliefs, which are univerſally admired. They are ſo happily expreſſed, that they muſt, I think, at firſt ſight, deceive the eye of the minuteſt critic.—There is alſo an old man's head, which is a late production, and which is executed with ſuch conſummate ſkill, that the more cloſely you examine it, the more natural it appears. I looked at it for ten minutes, through a glaſs, and could ſcarcely perſuade myſelf that it was an inanimate object.

The Univerſity is a very handſome edifice, built by Francis Iſt and Maria Thereſa.—It was originally founded by the Emperor Frederick IId, and is a very noble inſtitution.—Phyſic, Surgery, Theology, Na-

tural Philoſophy, Hiſtory, Civil and Canon Law, Painting and Sculpture are taught by the different profeſſors. The anatomical theatre, the laboratory, and the obſervatory, belonging to this univerſity, are extremely well worth ſeeing.

Amongſt the places of public amuſement, two of the theatres may be remarked for their elegance; but, at preſent, both the actors and actreſſes are, generally ſpeaking, very indifferent.

In the ſuburbs, there is a large amphitheatre, where, in imitation of the antients, combats of wild beaſts, and bull-fights, are exhibited on Sundays and holidays.—Curioſity prompted me to go there once, but I confeſs that I received no gratification. The boxes and galleries, where the ſpectators ſit, are ranged in rows one above the other, and the loweſt is raiſed conſiderably above the arena,

arena, round which are the dens, where the different animals are kept.—The commencement of this ſpectacle preſented a ſtrange ſcene of confuſion. A wolf, a bear, a wild boar, a fox and a monkey, were turned out together.—The monkey, being the wiſeſt of the five, very ſoon thought fit to run up a pole, which ſtands in the centre of the arena, to ſecure himſelf from the danger which awaited him below. The wild boar made an attack on the bear, which was very violent, but which did not laſt long; for as the bear was retreating from the dreadful tuſks of his adverſary, he fell backwards into a ſmall pool of water about two feet deep, where he thought proper to remain to cool himſelf, whilſt his enemy was grinning at him on the borders.—The poor wolf and fox were hunted by dogs, and were very much galled.—This conflict being over, ſeveral bulls were turned out, and baited; after which a man entered on horſeback, armed

with

with a ſpear, with which he attacked one of them.—But he was more than his match.—After wounding him ſeveral times, when the poor animal was quite faint with loſs of blood, he leaped from his horſe, and, ſeizing him by the horns, ran a long knife into his brain. The beaſt inſtantly fell, and expired; and was carried off amidſt the acclamations of the ſpectators.—Several other bulls were afterwards baited by dogs; and to make them furious, they were not only goaded by the keepers, but a couple of cats, tied together by a ſtring, were thrown acroſs the back of each.—The laſt animal that was exhibited was a byſon, and about a dozen large dogs, with jackets round their bodies to protect them from his horns, ſet on him at once. But he was ſo fierce and outrageous, that he ſoon diſabled them all. His eyes flaſhed fire, every muſcle of his body was in action, and he toſſed them one after the other, over and over, till they were at laſt

laſt ſo diſheartened, that they would no longer renew the attack. I am told that, now and then, a fine lion is turned out, but that, on this occaſion, the keepers always expect to loſe one dog.—This noble and intrepid animal, when the dogs, which are very numerous, approach him, does not ſeem to give himſelf much concern; but the moment one comes within his reach, he ſtretches out his paw, and ſecures him. He then places his foot on his neck, and holds him down till he has ſtrangled him. At intervals, he lifts up his foot, and whilſt there are any ſigns of life he always puts it down again, determined to have his revenge.—I have been particular in my account of this ſpectacle, becauſe it is to be met with in very few of the modern States of Europe.—It is, in fact, a barbarous diverſion, and might, I think, in this refined age, be diſpenſed with. —It has however its advocates in this city, and I was ſurpriſed to ſee it ſo well attended,

tended, eſpecially by the fair ſex. They certainly were never deſigned to be the ſpectators of theſe bloody ſports. Perhaps they do not conſider, that what is at firſt viewed with diſguſt or emotion, cuſtom by degrees will frequently reconcile us to; and that if once we allow ourſelves to be familiarized with the ſufferings of the brute creation, we have already applied the axe to the root of ſenſibility, and imperceptibly become callous to the afflictions of our own ſpecies *.

Belvedere is the name of a palace, be-

* Bull-baiting, cock-fighting, and throwing at cocks on Shrove Tueſdays in England, are diverſions fully as barbarous and immoral, as thoſe I have been dwelling on in the text; and although the country is not diſgraced by licenſed theatres for the repreſentation of theſe ſports, yet by a proper interference of the Magiſtracy they might be more diſcouraged.

The ſhocking, ſavage manner in which cattle is driven about the ſtreets of London, is alſo a ſubject which well deſerves reprehenſion. It either proves that our police laws are very defective, or that they are not enforced.

longing

longing to the Emperor, which is pleaſantly ſituated in the ſuburbs, and was once the reſidence of the great Prince Eugene.—It contains a very large, though by no means a choice collection, of paintings. Some few of them are however much eſteemed, and are the productions of the firſt maſters.—The gardens of Belvedere are extenſive, and are laid out with great taſte. They are opened every day for the amuſement of the public.

The Emperor has another agreeable palace, called Schonbrunn, at the diſtance of a few miles from his capital. This was the favourite reſidence of Maria Thereſa, and is delightfully ſituated, commanding, on one ſide, a view of the ſuburbs of Vienna, and, on the other, of the hills of Hungary. The gardens have been ornamented, at an immenſe expence, with alleys, grottoes, ruins, fountains and caſcades. In one part of them,

them, there is a menagery, which contains a fine collection of foreign birds and beasts.

Amongst the public walks, in the environs of the city, the Prater and the Augarten are the most frequented. The latter is much to be preferred. It is exceedingly well planted with trees, and is bounded on one side by the Danube. In these gardens, there is a spacious and elegant hall, where an ordinary is provided every Sunday, and which is frequented by many genteel people.

The Emperor's botanical garden contains a valuable collection of exotic plants; and, at a small distance from town, he has a menagery of wild boars, stocked with near a thousand of these ferocious animals. They are fed every day, and are so well acquaint-

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ed with the voice of their keeper, that, on hearing the ſummons, they immediately aſſemble.

Joſeph the IId, a little before his death, completed a very noble hoſpital. It is built on an excellent plan, and can accommodate 3000 patients.

The day after our arrival we paid a viſit to our Ambaſſador Sir R— M— K—, and have been at his houſe ſeveral times ſince. He is a moſt agreeable man, and ſo attentive to his countrymen, that he is quite beloved by all the Engliſh here.

There are few places in Europe, where time can be ſpent more agreeably than at Vienna; the Germans being a liberal, ſincere and hoſpitable people. A letter of recommendation to any perſon of faſhion, ſecures

cures an introduction to the moſt polite circles, and every mark of attention, civility and reſpect is eagerly heaped on ſtrangers. —If the Germans have been juſtly accuſed of dulneſs and phlegm; if they have ſeldom ventured to explore the realms of genius and fancy; ſtill their virtues and their abilities are ſufficient, to render them an agreeable and reſpectable people.—If they have not produced ſo many great poets or original authors as England or France, yet they can boaſt of ſome, whoſe talents have been rarely ſurpaſſed, and of whom any country might be proud.—To their indefatigable diligence and profound erudition, by which they have ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed themſelves, we are alſo indebted for ſeveral of the moſt valuable editions of the claſſics, and for the elucidation of many important points, which might otherwiſe, to this day, have remained in obſcurity. They have a great talent for mechanics, are fond

of muſic, and are, generally ſpeaking, induſtrious.

Like the climates and the ſoils, the diſpoſitions of nations vary.—One is diſtinguiſhed for genius, another for judgment; one for firmneſs, another for puſillanimity; one for ſincerity, another for treachery; one for induſtry, another for idleneſs; in ſhort, every nation, like individuals, is characteriſed by ſome predominant feature: but, as with individuals alſo, that people is not entitled to our reſpect, however renowned for talents, unleſs it alſo poſſeſs the good qualities of the heart; unleſs the inclination to ſerve mankind unite with the power; unleſs its virtues ſhine with a degree of energy and effulgence, ſufficient to diſperſe thoſe clouds of vice, which, at intervals, hover over every community, and which threaten the exiſtence of whatever commands our veneration, or is entitled to our eſteem.

We

We have now been here ten days, and have ſeen every thing which this city affords to gratify the curioſity of ſtrangers.– In the courſe of another week, we purpoſe ſetting off for Venice, whence we ſhall make our intended tour of Italy.

Yours, &c.

THE END.